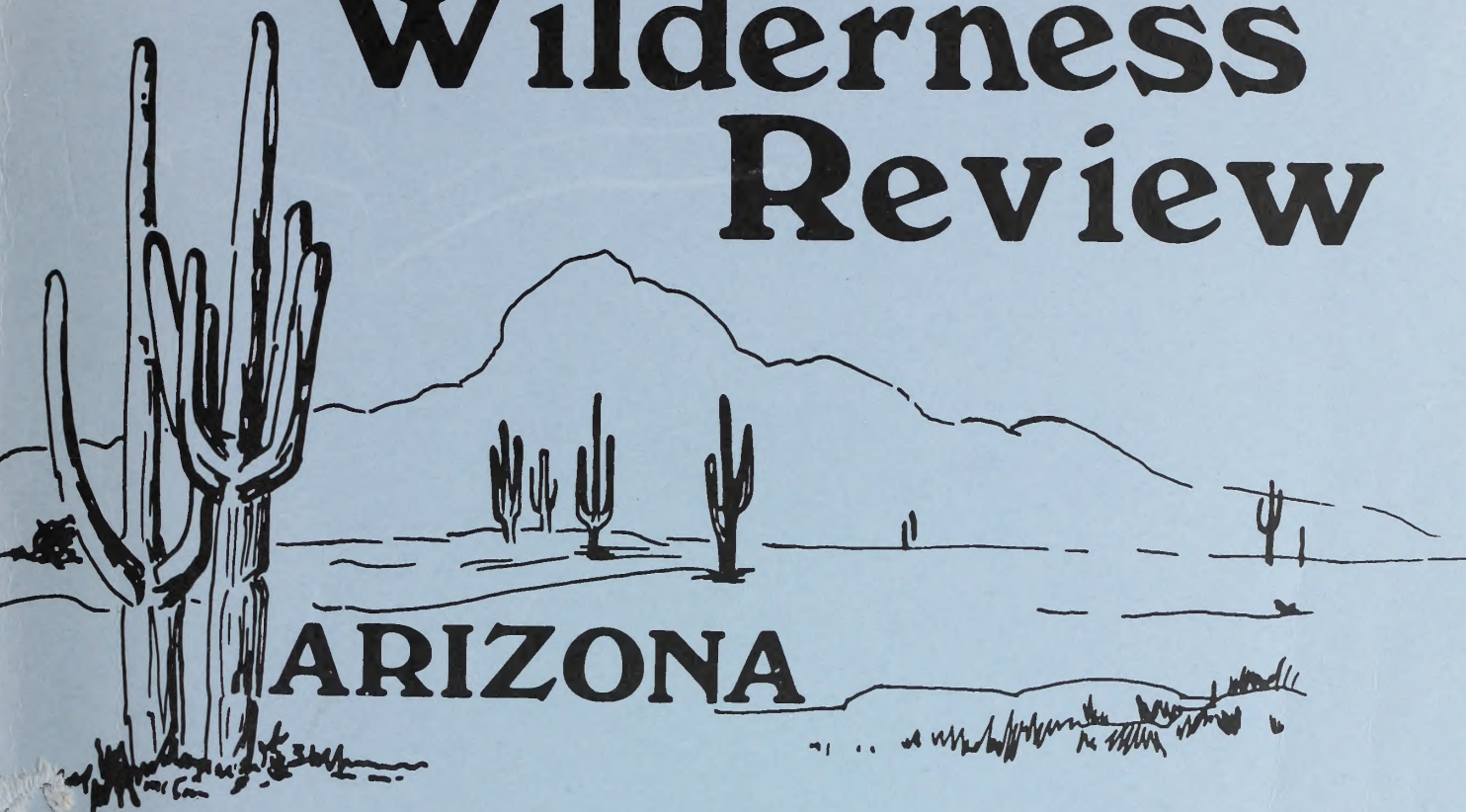




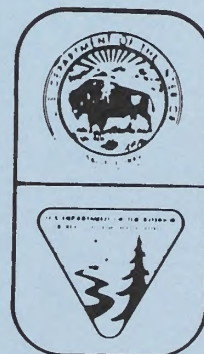
# Wilderness Review



## *Intensive Inventory of Public Lands Administered by Bureau of Land Management*

**Decision Report**

November 1980





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SERVING ARIZONA

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WILDERNESS REVIEW  
INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION REPORT

PART I. BACKGROUND AND POLICY

This report describes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness review and tells of BLM's decisions establishing wilderness study areas in Arizona.

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW

The BLM wilderness review is mandated by section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, passed by Congress in 1976. The law requires BLM to identify the roadless lands that have wilderness characteristics and to make recommendations to the Congress on whether particular parcels should be designated as wilderness or not. The decision to designate any public land as wilderness will be made by the Congress, not BLM.

In Arizona, BLM administers 12.5 million acres. The BLM designed its wilderness review to be a sorting process to find the lands deserving Congress's consideration. The stages of the review--like screens in a sieve--sort out lands until those deserving consideration for wilderness protection are found.

Initial Inventory (October 1978 - September 1979)

In the very first stage, the initial inventory, all of the public land was examined to see which parcels clearly and obviously lacked the legally-needed wilderness qualities. With the help of the public providing information BLM did not have, 54 percent of the public lands in Arizona were sorted out of the review.

Intensive Inventory (September 1979 - November 1980)

In the next step, BLM specialists examined the lands remaining in the review to find out if those lands had the wilderness qualities Congress required. We made proposals to the public in May 1980, for which lands we felt should be dropped from further review and which should be studied further as wilderness study areas. The 90-day public comment period closed August 28, 1980. After analyzing the comments we received, we are here announcing our decision.

Study of Wilderness Study Areas (November 1980 - October 1991)

In the third step, the lands established as Wilderness Study Areas will be studied to determine the effect wilderness designation by Congress would have. BLM land-use planning teams will assess all the resources and uses in each Wilderness Study Area. The effect of wilderness designation on other resources and uses will be considered.



The U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines will evaluate the mineral resources in wilderness study areas that BLM proposes for wilderness designation.

Throughout the 1980's and into the early 1990's, BLM will report its resulting recommendations to the public. The public's comments will then be sent together with the recommendations, to the President of the United States.

#### Report to the Congress (By October 21, 1993)

BLM's reporting to the President must be completed by October 21, 1991. The President must then make wilderness recommendations to the Congress by October 21, 1993. Congress will then make its decisions.

#### THE INVENTORY PROCEDURE

Guidelines for conducting the intensive inventory are in the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook," available at all BLM Offices. Inventory units were created in the initial inventory with boundaries set by non-BLM lands and by roads. Generally, units had 5000 or more acres. Certain smaller units bordering existing or proposed wilderness administered by other agencies were also created.

Inventory units were assigned two-part numbers. The first number stands for the district in which the unit is located (1 for Arizona Strip District, 2 for Phoenix District, 4 for Safford District and 5 for Yuma District). The second number stands for an individual unit in a district.

During the initial inventory, boundaries of units were adjusted as public comments and field work by BLM specialists found roads and other intrusions. More field work during the intensive inventory has further refined unit boundaries.

During the intensive inventory, BLM field teams reviewed each inventory unit. The teams used the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook" to evaluate each unit's wilderness characteristics. Those characteristics are naturalness, size, roadlessness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. More information on how these characteristics are used is in the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook."

#### INSTANT STUDY AREAS

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act also directed BLM to study lands that were already designated "primitive" or "natural" areas prior to November 1, 1975. These areas are called "instant study areas." The BLM had to make its recommendations to the President on their wilderness suitability in 1980.

The instant study areas in Arizona are: Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area (Safford District); Paiute Primitive Area, Paria Canyon Primitive Area, Vermillion Cliffs Natural Area, Big Sage Natural Area, and the Gambel-Turbinella Oak Natural Area (Arizona Strip District).



## THE INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY

As a part of BLM's wilderness review mandate, Congress also told the Bureau to manage lands under wilderness review "in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness," while interfering as little as possible with existing uses.

To carry out Congress's wishes, the BLM, with help from the public, developed the "Interim Management Policy." The provisions of the policy will be in effect on particular public lands until they are either sorted out of the review or until Congress makes its decision on their future management. Copies of the policy are available from any BLM office.

## OTHER POLICIES

Additional technical procedures for carrying on the wilderness inventories are in several memoranda from BLM's Washington Office to all BLM field offices. These memoranda are available on request from any BLM office. The memoranda are entitled, "Organic Act Directive 78-61" (including "Changes 1, 2, and 3."), and "Instruction Memorandum 80-236."

## PROTEST PERIOD

The decision for each inventory unit is considered individually and separately from the decision for every other inventory unit. These decisions become effective thirty days after the publication of this report (see enclosed cover letter for dates), unless protests are received by the Bureau of Land Management's State Director for Arizona.

To file a protest, submit by 4:15 p.m., on the date specified in the enclosed cover letter. Protests must be delivered or mailed to State Director (930), Bureau of Land Management, 2400 Valley Bank Center, Phoenix, Arizona 85073.

A protest must specify the inventory unit or units to which it is directed. It must include a clear and concise statement of the reasons for the protest, as well as data to support those reasons.

At the end of the protest period, the State Director will publish a notice of the decisions which were not protested and so are final, and those that were protested. The notice will be published in the Federal Register. The State Director will later issue a written decision on the protests that have been filed and will publish those decisions in the Federal Register also.

Protesters have the right of appeal on the State Director's decision. Appeals must be made under the provisions of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4.



## PART II. MAPS AND STATISTICAL CHARTS

### NOTE ABOUT THE MAPS

Two large maps accompany this report. The maps show all lands administered by the BLM in Arizona. Lands that have been sorted out of the wilderness review are shown in yellow. Shaded areas on the map are wilderness study areas. It is essential to use these maps when reading this report.

Each inventory unit is numbered, and those that underwent intensive inventory are described in this report in the pages following. The maps also show BLM primitive and natural areas and wilderness study areas already established.

Our Safford District conducted an intensive inventory on some public lands in New Mexico as well as Arizona. Similarly, our Yuma District inventoried some public land in California. The New Mexico and California units are shown on the maps on pages 6-10.

Each district office has small-scale maps of each inventory unit. You are welcome to inspect these maps.



# MAP 1

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)

### ARIZONA BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW

#### LEGEND

— YUMA DISTRICT BOUNDARY

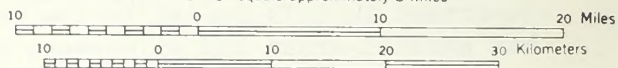
SHADED: INVENTORY UNITS WHICH CONTAIN WILDERNESS VALUES AND IDENTIFIED AS WSA. SUBJECT TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS.

2-16 INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION

UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP  
(2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA

Scale 1:500,000

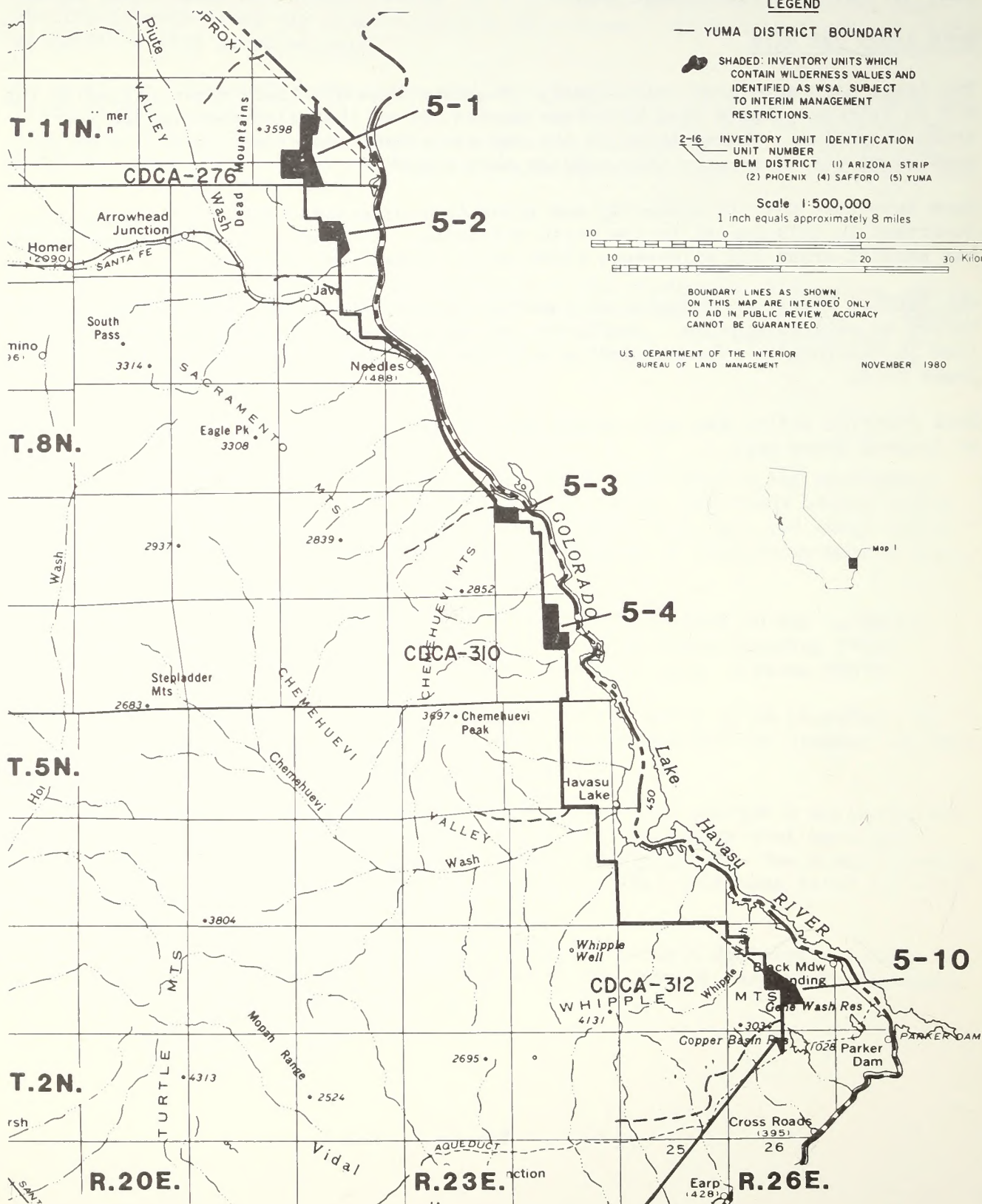
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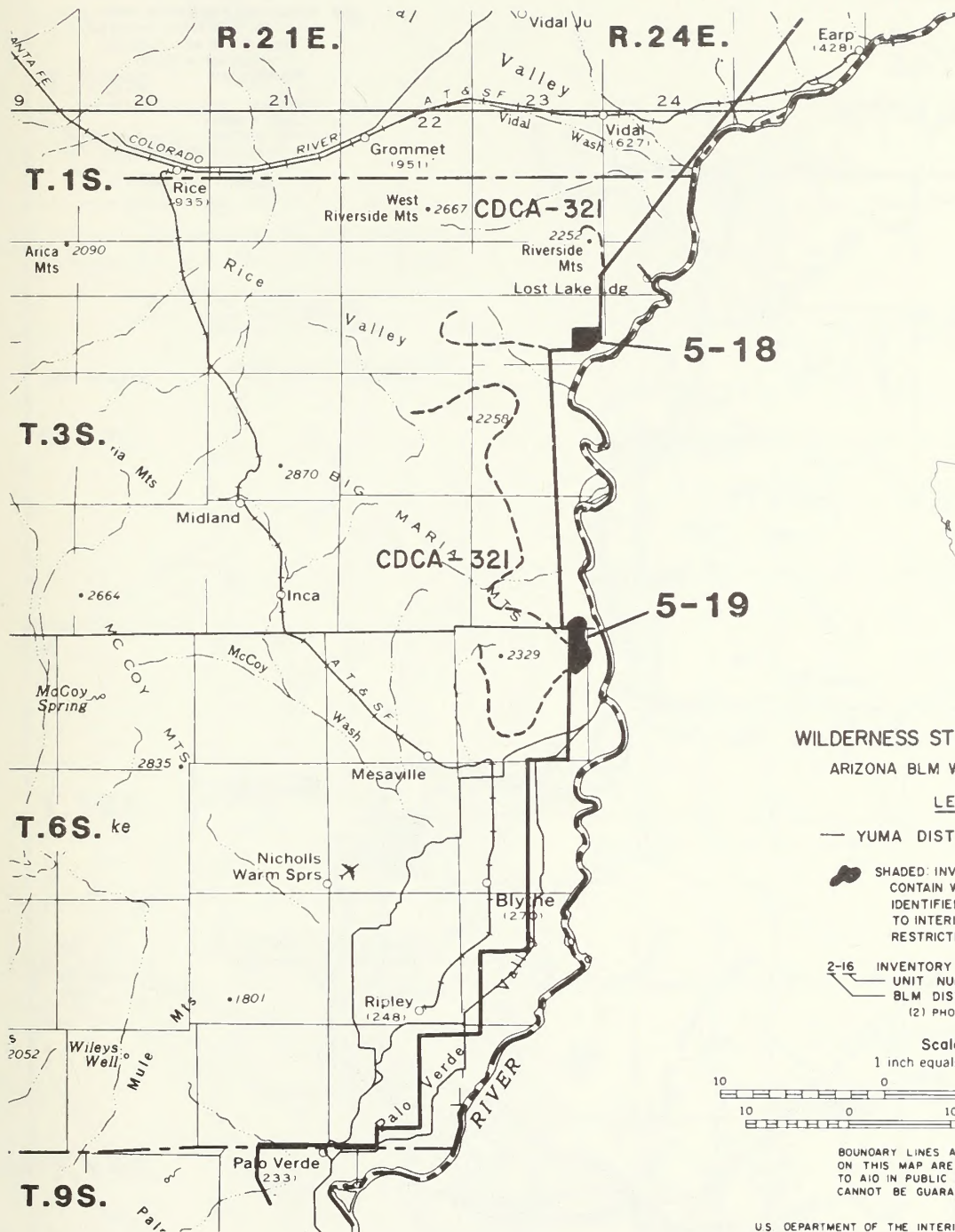
BOUNDARY LINES AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP ARE INTENDED ONLY TO AID IN PUBLIC REVIEW. ACCURACY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 1980



# MAP 2



## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)

ARIZONA BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW

### LEGEND

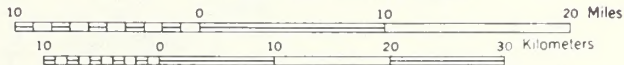
— YUMA DISTRICT BOUNDARY

SHADED: INVENTORY UNITS WHICH CONTAIN WILDERNESS VALUES AND IDENTIFIED AS WSA. SUBJECT TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS.

2-16 INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION  
UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP (2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA

Scale 1:500,000

1 inch equals approximately 8 miles



BOUNDARY LINES AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP ARE INTENDED ONLY TO AID IN PUBLIC REVIEW. ACCURACY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

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# MAP 3

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)

ARIZONA BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW

### LEGEND

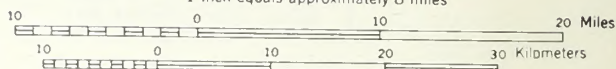
— YUMA DISTRICT BOUNDARY

● SHADED: INVENTORY UNITS WHICH CONTAIN WILDERNESS VALUES AND IDENTIFIED AS WSA. SUBJECT TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS.

2-16 INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION  
UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP  
(2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA

Scale 1:500,000

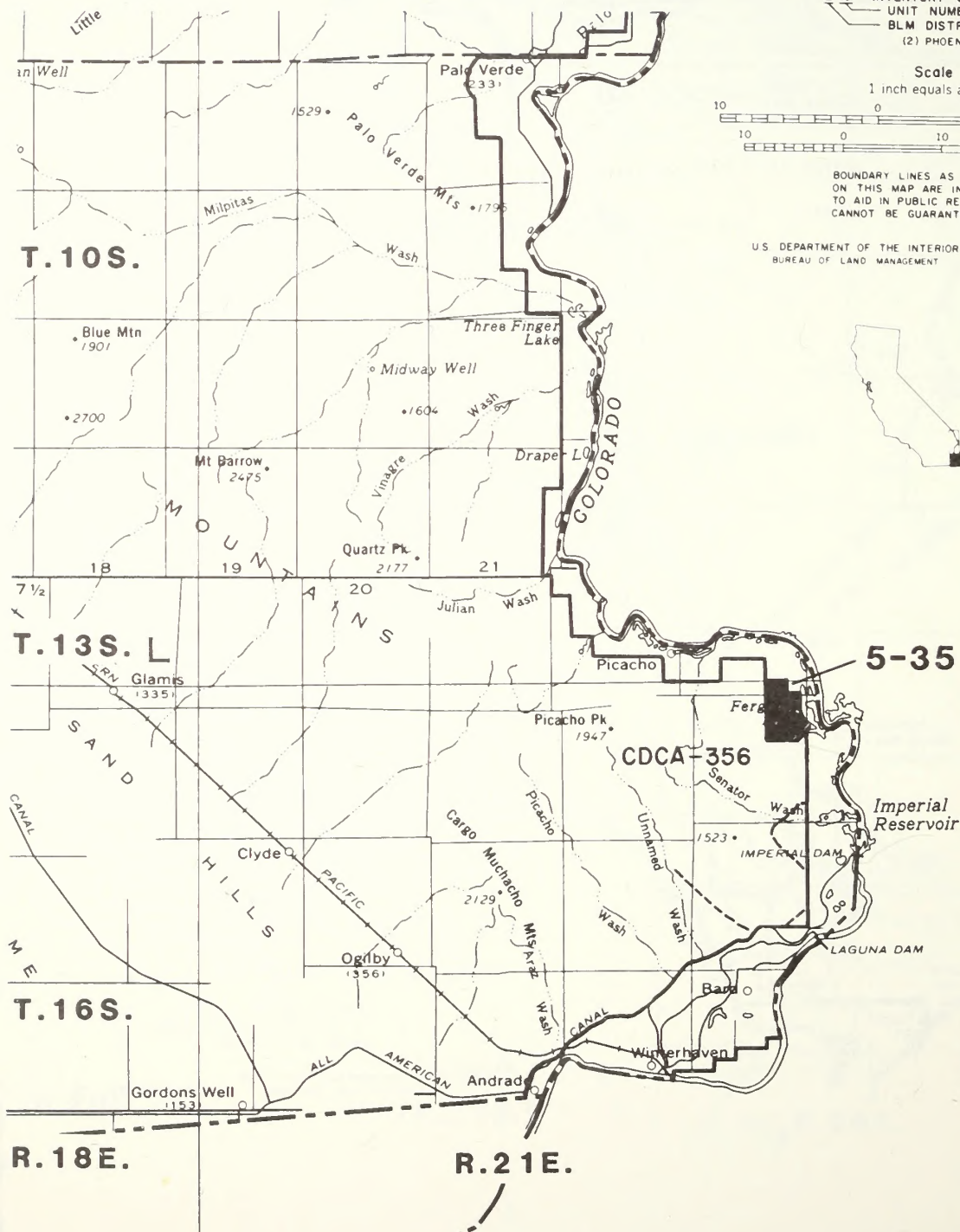
1 inch equals approximately 8 miles



BOUNDARY LINES AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP ARE INTENDED ONLY TO AID IN PUBLIC REVIEW. ACCURACY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 1980





# MAP 4

## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)

NEW MEXICO LANDS INVENTORIED  
BY ARIZONA

### LEGEND



SHADED INVENTORY UNITS WHICH  
CONTAIN WILDERNESS VALUES AND  
IDENTIFIED AS WSA SUBJECT  
TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT  
RESTRICTIONS.

AZ-2-16 INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION  
UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP  
(2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA  
INVENTORIED BY ARIZONA

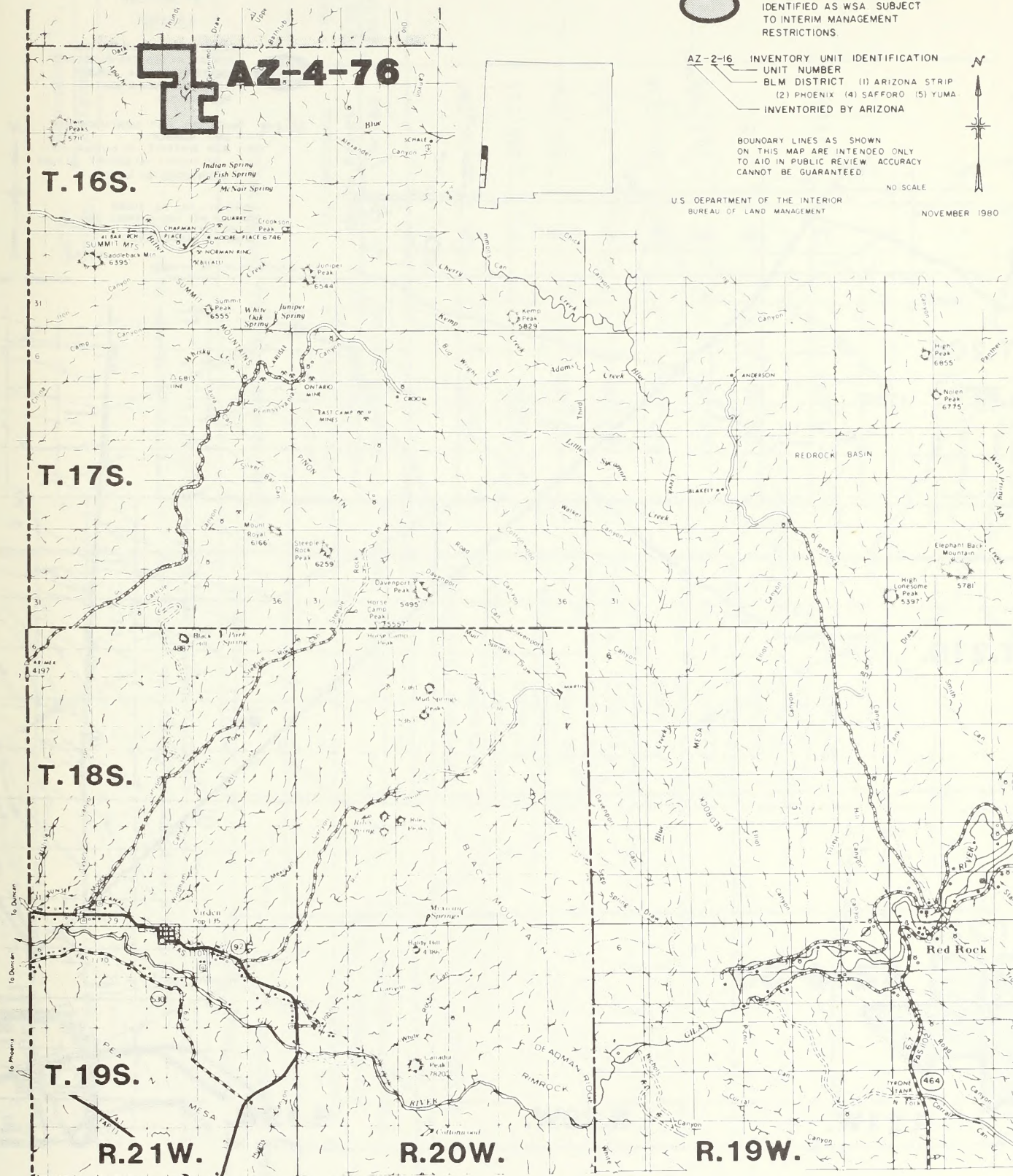
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NO SCALE

NOVEMBER 1980

ARIZONA





# MAP 5



## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S) NEW MEXICO LANDS INVENTORIED BY ARIZONA

### LEGEND



SHADED INVENTORY UNITS WHICH  
CONTAIN WILDERNESS VALUES AND  
IDENTIFIED AS WSA SUBJECT  
TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT  
RESTRICTIONS

AZ-2-16 INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION  
UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP  
(2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA  
INVENTORIED BY ARIZONA

BOUNDARY LINES AS SHOWN  
ON THIS MAP ARE INTENDED ONLY  
TO AID IN PUBLIC REVIEW. ACCURACY  
CANNOT BE GUARANTEED

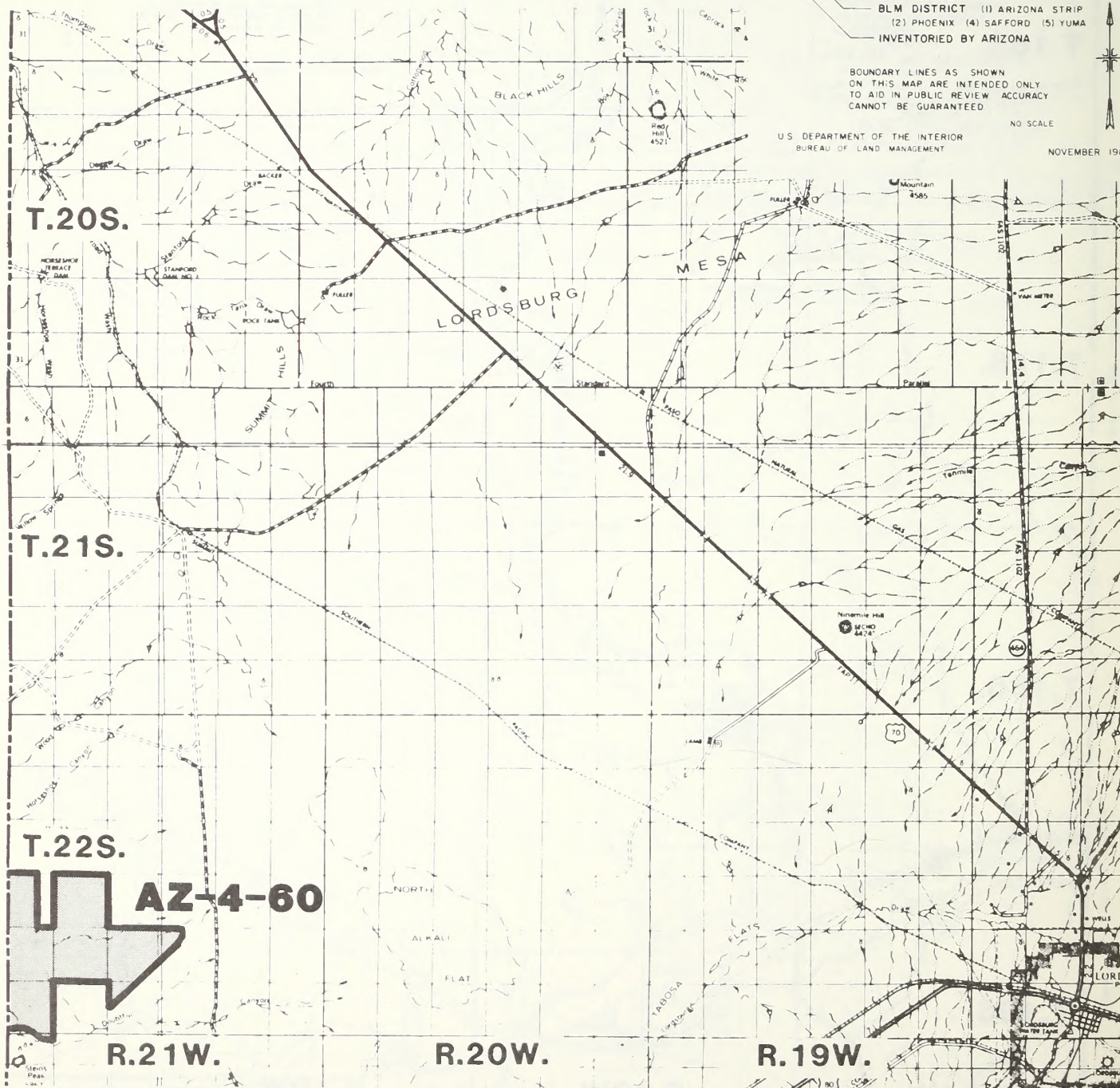
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NO SCALE

NOVEMBER 1980



A R I Z O N A



DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 1

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED INVENTORY DECISIONS (Not Included Under Table 2)  
(Within Political State Boundary)

INITIAL INVENTORY	
State	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics
Arizona	6,368,500

ACCELERATED OR SPECIAL INVENTORIES					
Inventory Name	Acres Lacking Wilderness Characteristics	Wilderness Study Areas		Units Under Protest/Appeal	
		Units	Acres	Units	Acres
Anderson Mine Road: Arizona	34,155	2	18,785		
Crossman Peak (FAA): Arizona	46,205	2	108,515		
Hualapai-Aquarius: Arizona	175,062	8	304,935		
Intermountain Power Project: Arizona	57,990	1	16,410		
Overthrust Belt Arizona	252,635	13	257,238		
Palo Verde- Devers Arizona	378,880	5	241,780		
Palo Verde - Kyrene Arizona	28,800	0	0		
Safford Units Contiguous to Coronado N.F. Arizona	1,925	3	11,608		



TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-010-006	Ferry Swale	10,170	14,988	26,502
010-006A	Ferry Swale	1,226		
010-006B	Judd Hollow	106		
010-006C	Paria Rim	12		
010-006D	Cedar Mtn.			
AZ-010-008/019	Paria Plateau - Big Pocket	124,428	5,083	136,859
010-008A/019	Paria Plateau	7,348		
010-008B	Overlook	12,913		
AZ-010-009	Emmett Wash	0	12,943	25,856
AZ-010-010	House Rock Valley	0	15,437	15,437
AZ-010-011	Buffalo Range	0	25,139	25,139
AZ-010-012	North Canyon	0	8,550	8,550
AZ-010-014	Anderson Ranch	0	6,053	6,053
AZ-010-015	Round Valley	0	5,708	5,708
AZ-010-016	Big Ridge	0	6,912	6,912
AZ-010-017	Sand Hills	0	17,408	17,408
AZ-010-018	Corral Valley	0	9,164	9,164
AZ-010-020	Kaibab	0	11,990	11,990
AZ-010-021	Pine Hollow Canyon	0	11,635	11,635
AZ-010-022	Buckskin Mountains	0	9,064	9,064
AZ-010-023	Pasture Canyon	0	13,850	13,850
AZ-010-024	Rock Canyon	0	5,171	5,171
AZ-010-025	LeFevre Canyon	0	18,912	18,912
AZ-010-026	Muggins Flat	0	17,894	17,894
AZ-010-027	Shinarump Cliffs	0	13,696	13,696
AZ-010-028	Wildcat Canyon	0	40,533	40,533
AZ-010-029	Pigeon Canyon East	0	20,275	20,275
AZ-010-030	Little Cedar Knoll	0	10,320	10,320

\* Subject to Protest

DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-010-031	Kanab Creek	39,907	9,658	49,565
AZ-010-032	Scotts Hole	0	11,264	11,264
AZ-010-033A	Hack Canyon (A)	63,682	6,364	70,046
AZ-010-033B	Hack Canyon (B)	0	10,802	10,802
AZ-010-034	Robinson	9,671	70	9,741
AZ-010-038	Nates Canyon	0	5,550	5,550
AZ-010-039	Yellowstone Mesa	0	51,519	51,519
AZ-010-040	Bull Pasture	0	11,034	11,034
AZ-010-041	Cottonwood Point	6,449	341	6,790
AZ-010-045	Wild Band Pockets	0	7,706	7,706
AZ-010-047	Swapp	0	9,022	9,022
AZ-010-048	Hancock Knolls	0	12,189	12,189
AZ-010-049	Broad Canyon	0	4,122	4,122
AZ-010-050	Toroweap	5,312	115	5,427
AZ-010-051	Mount Logan	8,803	9,805	18,608
AZ-010-052	Mount Trumbull	7,285	1,115	8,400
AZ-010-053	Marshall Ranch	0	5,555	5,555
AZ-010-055	Pugh Knolls	0	25,702	25,702
AZ-010-056	Crosby Tank	0	8,320	8,320
AZ-010-057	Nickalas	0	15,633	15,633
AZ-010-058	Hurricane Cliffs	0	36,071	36,071
AZ-010-059	Uinkaret	0	43,059	43,059
AZ-010-062	Flat Top	0	9,088	9,088
AZ-010-063	Rocks	0	8,960	8,960
AZ-010-064	Snake Pond	0	13,309	13,309
AZ-010-065	White Pockets	0	8,653	8,653
AZ-010-066	East Antelope	0	6,989	6,989
AZ-010-067	Atkins Well	0	6,451	6,451

\* Subject to Protest



DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-010-068	Spring Mountain		7,104	7,104
AZ-010-069	Canaan Gap	0	22,950	22,950
AZ-010-071	Cottonwood Canyon	0	41,472	41,472
AZ-010-072	East Mesa	0	29,286	29,286
AZ-010-073A	Yellowhorse Flat	0	10,440	10,440
AZ-010-073B	Quail Draw	0	22,540	22,540
AZ-010-074	Seegmiller	0	8,550	8,550
AZ-010-076	Gyp Pocket	0	7,275	7,275
AZ-010-077	Nutter Pond	0	9,467	9,467
AZ-010-078	Lower Hurricane	0	5,018	5,018
AZ-010-079	Navajo	0	4,996	4,996
AZ-010-080	Hole-in-Wall	0	19,507	19,507
AZ-010-081	Main Street	0	10,163	10,163
AZ-010-082	Hard Pond	0	12,133	12,133
AZ-010-083	Hooter	0	7,665	7,665
AZ-010-084	Hurricane Wash	0	6,298	6,298
AZ-010-085	Round Pond	0	5,120	5,120
AZ-010-086	Sink Hole	0	6,530	6,530
AZ-010-087	Mudhole	0	11,726	11,726
AZ-010-088	Sullivan	0	8,243	8,243
AZ-010-089	Rocky's	0	6,451	6,451
AZ-010-091	Poverty Mountain	7,872	3,827	11,699
AZ-010-093	Parashant	28,141	10,797	38,938
AZ-010-094	No Name	0	2,945	2,945
AZ-010-095	No Name	0	1,920	1,920
AZ-010-096A	Dansil Canyon	294	0	294
AZ-010-096B	Parashant Wash	0	7,770	7,770
AZ-010-096C	Grassy Mountain		2,822	56,573

\* Subject to Protest

DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
010-096C	Grassy Mountain	5,503		
010-096D	Andrus Canyon	48,248		
AZ-010-097	North Dellenbaugh	10,678	20	10,698
AZ-010-098	No Name	0	640	640
AZ-010-099	G & F	640	0	640
AZ-010-100	No Name	0	640	640
AZ-010-101	No Name	0	320	320
AZ-010-102	No Name	0	640	640
AZ-010-103	Burnt Canyon	0	6,400	6,400
AZ-010-104	Salt House		8,807	49,522
010-104A	Salt House	13,465		
010-104B	Mustang Point	27,250		
AZ-010-110	Hidden Wash	0	19,950	19,950
AZ-010-111	Last Chance	38,050	410	38,460
AZ-010-116	Nutter	0	6,835	6,835
AZ-010-117	Englestead	0	5,350	5,350
AZ-010-118	Shoebuckle	0	11,955	11,955
AZ-010-125	Hobble Pond	0	17,126	17,126
AZ-010-131	Wolf Hole	0	12,251	12,251
AZ-010-132	Purgatory	7,557	13,630	21,187
AZ-010-133	Mokaac Mountains	0	32,246	32,246
AZ-010-136	Mount Emma	6,480	1,840	8,320
AZ-010-137	No Name	0	1,408	1,408
AZ-010-138	No Name	0	614	614
AZ-010-139	No Name	0	1,485	1,485
AZ-010-140	No Name	0	1,446	1,446
AZ-010-141	No Name	0	179	179
AZ-010-143	No Name	0	2,397	2,397

\* Subject to Protest



DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-010-145	No Name	0	2,312	2,312
AZ-010-146	No Name	0	4,075	4,075
Subtotal (110)		(491,490)	(1,085,182)	(1,576,672)
AZ-020-001	Mt. Wilson			36,203
020-001A	Mt. Wilson	24,821	0	
020-001B	Mt. Wilson Plain	0	11,382	
AZ-020-002	Squaw Peak	0	20,525	20,525
AZ-020-003	Trail Rapids Hills	0	10,430	10,430
AZ-020-004/005	South Detrital Valley	0	13,920	13,920
AZ-020-006	Pope Mine	0	1,100	1,100
AZ-020-007	Van Deeman	1,550	1,650	3,200
AZ-020-008	Mockingbird	5,700	0	5,700
AZ-020-009	Black Mountains North	20,398	2	20,400
AZ-020-010	Burns Spring	29,961	39	30,000
AZ-020-012/042	Mount Tipton	19,550	3,010	22,560
AZ-020-014	Grapevine Wash	2,200	0	2,200
AZ-020-015	Grand Wash Cliffs	12,176	570	12,746
AZ-020-017	Music Mountains	0	32,800	32,800
AZ-020-021 (4 Parcels)	Mount Davis	2,560	0	2,560
AZ-020-023	Pinnacles	0	10,460	10,460
AZ-020-024	Mount Nutt	29,200	4,445	33,645
AZ-020-028/029	Warm Springs	118,455	24,545	143,000
AZ-020-039	Detrital Valley	0	16,022	16,022
AZ-020-068	Peoples Canyon	3,480	0	3,480
AZ-020-071	Buckskin Mountains	47,582	30,766	78,348

\* Subject to Protest

DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-020-072	Sycamore Mesa	0	5,897	5,897
AZ-020-075	Harcuvar Mountains	74,778	19,535	94,313
AZ-020-083	Hassayampa River Canyon	24,200	2,785	26,985
AZ-020-084	South Bradshaws			6,667
020-084A	South Bradshaws East	640	0	
020-084B	South Bradshaws West	0	6,027	
AZ-020-086	Buckhorn Mountains	0	6,571	6,571
AZ-020-090	Granite Wash Mountains	0	43,938	43,938
AZ-020-091	Tank Pass	0	14,441	14,441
AZ-020-092	Harcuvar Peak	0	33,600	33,600
AZ-020-099	Big Horn Mountains	22,337	1,796	24,133
AZ-020-100	Hummingbird Springs	67,680	7,365	75,045
AZ-020-103	Black Butte	0	20,460	20,460
AZ-020-107	Belmont Hills North	0	11,500	11,500
AZ-020-108	Belmont Hills	0	18,773	18,773
AZ-020-118	Cedar Basin	0	7,883	7,883
AZ-020-119	Hells Canyon	9,379	6	9,385
AZ-020-120	Baldy Mountain	0	10,736	10,736
AZ-020-124	Petrified Forest	0	560	560
AZ-020-125	New Water Mountains	58,600	0	58,600
AZ-020-126	Little Horn Mountains West			25,690
020-126A	Little Horn Mtns. West A	13,800	2,650	
020-126B	Little Horn Mtns. West B	0	9,240	
AZ-020-127A	Red Raton Wash	0	27,079	27,079
AZ-020-130	Palomas Plain	0	30,700	30,700
AZ-020-131	Tank Mountains	0	43,400	43,400
AZ-020-132/133	Palomas Mountains	0	28,040	28,040
AZ-020-136	Face Mountain	27,575	11,985	39,560

\* Subject to Protest



DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-020-137	Yellow Medicine Butte	0	37,983	37,983
AZ-020-138	Signal Mountain	20,920	8,150	29,070
AZ-020-140	Hyder Valley	0	9,340	9,340
AZ-020-142/144	Woolsey Peak	73,930	7,770	81,700
AZ-020-143	Gila Bend Mountains	0	19,900	19,900
AZ-020-148	Gila River	0	16,400	16,400
AZ-020-155	Painted Rock Mountains			49,200
020-155A	Painted Rock Mtns South	0	39,450	
020-155B	Painted Rock Mtns North	0	9,750	
AZ-020-157	North Maricopa Mountains	75,483	2,167	77,650
AZ-020-160	Sierra Estrella	14,190	8,550	22,740
AZ-020-163	South Maricopa Mountains	72,004	8,177	80,181
AZ-020-164	Butterfield State Memorial	9,566	8	9,574
AZ-020-169	Squaw Tits	0	33,690	33,690
AZ-020-172	Table Top Mountain	39,823	5,723	45,546
AZ-020-175	Bata Mote Mountains	0	57,697	57,697
AZ-020-176	Sikort Chuapo Mountains	10,665	0	10,665
AZ-020-177	Pozo Redondo	0	19,890	19,890
AZ-020-186	Mineral Mountains	0	8,660	8,660
AZ-020-187	White Canyon	6,968	7	6,975
AZ-020-188	Tortilla Mountains	0	5,030	5,030
AZ-020-190	Sawtooth Mountains	0	11,900	11,900
AZ-020-194	Picacho Mountains	6,400	0	6,400
AZ-020-196	West Silver Bell Mountains	0	10,500	10,500
AZ-020-197	Ragged Top	4,460	4,020	8,480
AZ-020-199	Pan Quemado	0	11,870	11,870
AZ-020-200	Roskrige Mountains	0	7,700	7,700

\* Subject to Protest

TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-020-202	Coyote Mountains	5,080	3	5,083
AZ-020-203	Baboquivari Peak			4,435
020-203A	Baboquivari Peak North	0	2,370	
020-203B	Baboquivari Peak South	2,065	0	
AZ-020-204	Ives Peak	9,675	1,560	11,235
AZ-020-205	Tres Alamos	8,910	25	8,935
Subtotal (78)		(976,761)	(894,923)	(1,871,684)
AZ-040-001	Mescal			
040-001A	Needles Eye	9,485	3,627	25,772
040-001B	Mescal Mountains	0	535	
040-001C	El Capitan	0	7,140	
AZ-040-004	Zapata Wash	0	4,985	
AZ-040-008	Black Rock	8,492	6,360	6,360
AZ-040-009	Ashurst	0	128	8,620
AZ-040-010/011	Bear Springs Flat	0	11,506	11,506
AZ-040-013	Diamond Bar	0	19,989	19,989
AZ-040-014	Fishhooks	0	6,240	6,240
AZ-040-016	Day Mine	15,013	17,620	32,633
AZ-040-017	Oliver Knoll	16,639	12,176	28,815
AZ-040-020	Johnny Spring	0	7,786	7,786
AZ-040-022/023/024	Gila Box-Turtle Mountain	0	8,382	8,382
040-022/023/024A	Gila Box	13,470	9,220	46,264
040-022/023/024B	Turtle Mountain	17,422	6,152	
AZ-040-030	Thumb Butte	0	10,075	10,075
AZ-040-048	Javelina Peak	17,870	337	18,207

\* Subject to Protest



DATE: November 15, 1980  
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TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-040-055	Little Franks	0	7,535	7,535
AZ-040-059	Orange Butte	0	7,655	7,655
AZ-040-060 **	Peloncillo Mountains	8,971	266	9,237
AZ-040-065	Happy Camp Canyon	16,771	3,556	20,327
AZ-040-074	Pothole	0	5,481	5,481
AZ-040-075	Linden Creek	0	160	160
AZ-040-077	Hoverrocker	2,769	985	3,754
AZ-040-078	Ketchum	0	22	22
AZ-040-082	Holdout	0	116	116
Subtotal (25)		(126,902)	(158,034)	(284,936)
AZ-050-005A	Needles Northern Addition	0	5,590	5,590
AZ-050-005B	Needles Eastern Addition	465	0	7,315
050-005C	Needles Southern Addition	0	6,850	
AZ-050-007A	Buck Mountains	0	9,020	19,675
050-007F	West Buck Mountains	0	10,655	
AZ-050-007C/050-048/020-052	Mohave Wash	104,605	0	104,605
AZ-050-007D	No Name	0	5,945	5,945
AZ-050-011	The Mesa	0	14,185	14,185
AZ-050-012	Gibraltar Mountain	25,260	0	25,260
AZ-050-013	Planet Peak	17,645	50	17,695
AZ-050-014A/B	Cactus Plain	70,360	2,125	72,485
AZ-050-015A	Swansea	41,850	2,935	44,785
AZ-050-015B	Clara Peak	0	9,695	9,695
AZ-050-017	East Cactus Plain	13,735	285	14,020
AZ-050-020	La Posa Plain			54,230

\* Subject to Protest

\*\* Unit is in two states, but, entirely inventoried by Arizona BLM

DATE: November 15, 1980  
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TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

PART A: Administered Within Political State Boundary

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
050-020A	La Posa Plain	0	24,960	16,510
050-020B	South La Posa Plain	0	29,270	5,890
AZ-050-021	No Name	0	16,510	46,850
AZ-050-023A	South Trigo Mountains	4,500	1,390	3,085
AZ-050-023B	Trigo Mountains	36,870	9,980	9,240
AZ-050-028	Kofa Unit 2 Addition	0	3,085	11,270
AZ-050-030	Kofa Unit 3 Northern Addition	0	9,240	2,195
AZ-050-031	Kofa Unit 3 Southern Addition	3,400	7,870	11,220
AZ-050-033	Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition	1,900	295	6,740
AZ-050-034	Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition	11,220	0	9,265
AZ-050-037	No Name	0	6,740	13,165
AZ-050-038	Laguna Mountains	0	9,265	8,765
AZ-050-039	Northern Gila Mountains	0	13,165	4,735
AZ-050-040	Gila Mountains	0	8,765	27,340
AZ-050-042	Northern Mohawk Mountains	0	4,735	75,100
AZ-050-047/020-073	Butler Pass	0	27,340	(6-6,855)
AZ-050-049	Piedosa Mountains	0	75,100	(315,045)
Subtotal (31)		(331,810)	(315,045)	(-,-13,770)
GRAND TOTAL (24)		(1,941,686)	(2,472,384)	



DATE: November 15, 1980  
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TABLE 2

FINAL INTENSIVE INVENTORY DECISION\* (Exclusive of Previously Announced Decisions - See Table 1)

Part B: Other Administered Public Lands in Adjacent State(s)

Unit Under Intensive Inventory (List by Unit & Total by District)	Name of Unit	Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Acres)	Lacking Wilderness Characteristics (Acres)	Total Size of Public Lands Under Intensive Inventory
AZ-040-060 **	Peloncillo Mountains	4,061	70	4,131
AZ-040-076	Apache Box	932	0	932
AZ-040-083	Steeple Rock	0	8,400	8,400
Subtotal (2)		(4,993)	(8,470)	(13,463)
AZ-050-001	Dead Mountains Northern Addition	1,815	0	1,815
AZ-050-002	Dead Mountains Southern Addition	630	0	630
AZ-050-003	Chemehuevi Mountains Addition	195	0	195
AZ-050-004	Chemehuevi/Needles Addition	960	0	960
AZ-050-009	East Whipple Mountains	0	5,235	5,235
AZ-050-010	Whipple Mountains Addition	1,380	0	1,380
AZ-050-018	Big Maria Mts Northern Addition	415	0	415
AZ-050-019	Big Maria Mts Southern Addition	1,420	100	1,520
AZ-050-035	Little Picacho Peak Addition	2,915	35	2,950
AZ-050-036	No Name	0	5,060	5,060
Subtotal (10)		(9,730)	(10,430)	(20,160)

\* Subject to Protest

\*\* Unit is in two states, but, entirely inventoried by Arizona BLM

DATE: November 15, 1980

STATE: Arizona

TABLE 3

INTERSTATE UNITS  
Public Land Roadless Areas Administered by More Than One State

Unit Number All States by Roadless Areas	Name of Unit	Final Decision						Total Size All Public Lands
		Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)		Lacking Wilderness Characteristics		Adjoining States(s) Acres		
		Acres Administered	Adjoining State(s) Acres	Acres Administered				
AZ-010-021 UT-040-274	Pine Hollow Canyon " " "	0	0	** 11,635		9,343	11,635 9,343 20,978	
AZ-010-022 UT-040-226	Buckskin Mountains " " "	0	0	9,064		3,328	9,064 3,328 12,392	
AZ-010-023 UT-040-224	Pasture Canyon " " "	0	0	13,850		437	13,850 437 14,287	
AZ-010-026 UT-040-223	Muggins Flat " " "	0	0	** 17,894		9,308	17,894 9,308 27,202	
AZ-010-027 UT-040-219	Shinarump Cliffs " " "	0	0	13,696		537	13,696 537 14,233	
AZ-010-040 UT-040-218	Bull Pasture " " "	0	0	11,034		5,668	11,034 5,668 16,702	

\*Acreage and units are included in Table 2 for lead State responsible for inventory.

\*\* These acreages are the correct acreages; the acreage figures in the Utah final decision are incorrect in some cases.



DATE: November 15, 1980  
STATE: Arizona

TABLE 3

INTERSTATE UNITS

Public Land Roadless Areas Administered by More Than One State

Unit Number All States by Roadless Areas	Name of Unit	Final Decision					Total Size All Public Lands
		Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)		Lacking Wilderness Characteristics		Adjoining States(s) Acres	
		Acres Administered	Adjoining State(s) Acres	Acres Administered			
AZ-010-041 UT-040-143	Cottonwood Point Canaan Mountain	6,449	47,170	341	15,540	6,790 62,710 69,500	
AZ-010-069 UT-040-137	Canaan Gap "	0	0	22,950	300	22,950 300 23,250	
AZ-010-071 UT-040-138	Cottonwood Canyon "	0	0	41,472	14,396	41,472 14,396 55,868	
AZ-010-072 UT-040-135	East Mesa "	0	0	29,286	6,225	29,286 6,225 35,511	
AZ-010-073B UT-040-134	Quail Draw "	0	0	** 22,540	2,635	22,540 2,635 25,175	

\*Acreage and units are included in Table 2 for lead State responsible for inventory.

\*\*These acreages are the correct acreages; the acreage figures in the Utah final decision are incorrect in some cases.

## PART III. INVENTORY UNIT REPORT SUMMARIES

### INTRODUCTION - HOW THE DECISIONS WERE REACHED

Before reaching the decisions announced in the following pages, we made proposals to the public, based on our best information. In order to become a wilderness study area, an inventory unit had to have the wilderness qualities intended by Congress. These qualities are explained in detail in the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook," available from any BLM office.

We made our proposals in May 1980. For 90 days people from all over the country sent in comments on the many inventory units. We also held a dozen "open houses" around Arizona, giving people a chance to come in and talk with our wilderness specialists informally, one-to-one. After the close of the comment period on August 28, 1980, we analyzed the comments we received. Where we received substantive comments, addressing our application of wilderness inventory criteria, we conducted field checks of the particular inventory units. In some cases, public comment provided information that changed the proposals we made in May. In all cases, we recorded all comments we received. The following inventory unit summary reports contain summaries of the comments we received for each inventory unit.

The inventory unit summary reports are intended only to summarize our decision. The summaries are not intended to give thorough or comprehensive explanations of the inventory units, the comments received on our proposals for them, or our decision. Detailed information in the official, full-length narratives, are available at the appropriate district office.

### SOME USEFUL DEFINITIONS

As you read the following unit summary reports, the definitions we used will help you understand what we mean. A more detailed discussion of these definitions is in the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook."

Road - the word refers to a means of access which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means (by the use of hand tools or power machinery) to ensure relatively regular and continuous uses. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.



Wilderness values (from Section 2c of the Wilderness Act of 1964):

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values."

Cherrystem - a road that penetrates a unit but does not bisect it and which has been excluded from the wilderness study area.

## THE SUMMARIES

NOTE: The inventory unit summary reports are intended only to summarize our decision. The summaries are not intended to give thorough or comprehensive explanations of the inventory units, the comments received on our proposals for them, or our decision. Detailed information in the official, full-length narratives, are available at the appropriate district office.

### ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT

#### Unit No. 1-6A

#### Ferry Swale

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is north and east of Paria Canyon and 5 miles west of Page. The landscape is characterized by areas of rugged, weathered sandstone near Paria Canyon, sandy rolling plains in the north and east, and a higher mesa in the west. The vegetative cover consists of areas of low- to medium-density pinyon and juniper with small desert shrubs and grasses predominating.

The unit is bounded by Paria Canyon Primitive Area, a 500 kV transmission line, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

## BLM Proposal

Much of the unit in the eastern plains is in an unnatural condition while the Thousand Pockets and Water Pockets areas contain few disturbances or improvements. Man-made influences in the eastern plains are reservoirs, a sanitary landfill, roads, ways, and a significant number of off-road vehicle tracks.

We found the unit to be essentially natural and containing areas that provide outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

The 10,170-acre unit was proposed to be established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Summary of Public Comments

Some comments indicate that the subunits of the original unit 1-6 should be reunited, saying that "ways" not roads separate them and that the effects of off-road vehicle use are not significant. Most comments stated that 1-6A met the wilderness criteria and should become a Wilderness Study Area.

## BLM Decision

Field checking confirmed significant impacts subdividing unit 1-6. The 10,170 acre unit 1-6A contains wilderness character and is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 1-6B

## Judd Hollow

## Description of the Unit

The unit is north and east of Paria Canyon and 15 miles west of Page. The landscape is characterized by areas of rugged, weathered sandstone near Paria Canyon, sandy rolling plains in the north and east and a higher mesa in the west. The vegetative cover consists of areas of low- to medium-density pinyon and juniper with small desert shrubs and grasses predominating.

The unit is bounded by Paria Canyon Primitive Area on the west and south, Utah on the north, and an unnatural area on the east.

## BLM Proposal

This unit was a portion of unit 1-6 (Ferry Swale) until the intensive inventory. The area to the east has been significantly affected by off-road vehicle use and woodcutting.

It contains the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation as described in 1-6A. The wilderness



values in the unit were recognized during preparation of the "Arizona Strip Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement." This unit has been proposed for inclusion in the Paria Wilderness Area.

The 1,226-acre unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments stated that imprints in the original unit were insignificant and that the entire unit contained outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. Other comments agreed with the BLM proposal to subdivide the unit.

#### BLM Decision

Field verification confirmed significant imprints subdividing unit 1-6. Unit 1-6B contains wilderness character and is established as a Wilderness Study Area. It contains 1,226 acres.

#### Unit No. 1-6C

#### Paria Rim

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is north and east of Paria Canyon and 14 miles west of Page. The landscape is characterized by areas of rugged, weathered sandstone near Paria Canyon, sandy rolling plains in the north and east and a higher mesa in the west. The vegetative cover consists of areas of low- to medium-density pinyon and juniper with small desert shrubs and grasses predominating.

The unit is bounded by Paria Canyon Primitive Area on the south and an unnatural area on the north.

#### BLM Proposal

This unit was a portion of unit 1-6 (Ferry Swale) until the intensive inventory. The area to the north has been used by off-road vehicles and for woodcutting, both significant imprints.

This unit contains the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation as described in 1-6A. The wilderness values in the unit were recognized during preparation of the "Arizona Strip Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement." This unit has been proposed for inclusion in the Paria Wilderness Area.

The 106-acre unit was proposed to be established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many commenters felt unit 1-6C contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. Some suggested redrawing the boundaries to include the area to the north while others felt unit 1-6 should be subdivided.

## BLM Decision

Field verification confirmed significant imprints subdivided unit 1-6. Unit 1-6C contains wilderness character and is established as a Wilderness Study Area. It contains 106 acres.

## Unit No. 1-6D

## Cedar Mountain

## Description of the Unit

The unit is north and east of Paria Canyon and 13 miles west of Page. The landscape is characterized by areas of rugged, weathered sandstone near Paria Canyon, sandy rolling plains in the north and east and a higher mesa in the west. The vegetative cover consists of areas of low- to medium-density pinyon and juniper with small desert shrubs and grasses predominating.

The unit is bounded by Paria Canyon Primitive Area and an unnatural area to the north and east.

## BLM Proposal

The effects of the off-road vehicle use east and north have separated it from the original unit 1-6, leaving unit 1-6D in an essentially natural condition.

The unit contains the same outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation as described in 1-6A. The wilderness values in the unit were recognized during preparation of the "Arizona Strip Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement." These units have been proposed for inclusion in the Paria Wilderness Area.

The 12 acres were proposed to be established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many commenters felt unit 1-6D contains outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. Several comments stated unit 1-6 should not be subdivided while others agreed with the BLM proposal.



## BLM Decision

Field verification confirmed significant imprints subdivided unit 1-6. Unit 1-6D contains wilderness character and is established as a Wilderness Study Area. It contains 12 acres.

Unit No. 1-8A/19

Paria Plateau

### Description of the Unit

This horseshoe-shaped unit starts 11 miles west of Page, and includes more than half of the Paria Plateau. Its topography varies considerably from gently-rolling hills to colorful cliffs, canyons, and sharp sandstone ridges. Many of the ridges and cliffs lack any vegetation while others are sparsely vegetated. Pinyon and juniper predominate in many areas. Ponderosa pine is found in isolated pockets on the east and west ends of the unit.

The boundaries of the unit are formed by the Utah State line, Paria Canyon Primitive Area, Vermillion Cliffs Natural Area, and roads that form the center of the "horseshoe."

Unit 1-19 has been included with this unit because it was found that part of the boundary between it and 1-8A did not exist.

In another boundary change, along the east end of the unit, an area that had been deleted because of its small size was replaced. One of its boundaries was determined to be a "way" and not a "road."

The inclusion of unit 1-19 and the small area leaves three "cherrystem" roads in the unit. A fourth road splits a portion of the unit off, forming sub-unit 1-8B.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that unit 1-8 be subdivided into 1-8A and 1-8B and that unit 1-19 be included with 1-8A to form unit 1-8A/19. Portions of the unit were determined to have been significantly affected by man and were proposed to be dropped. These roads into the unit were "cherrystemmed." Numerous ways, small reservoirs, fences, and corrals are scattered throughout much of the unit and have been retained in it since they do not detract from its naturalness.

The unit's large size, topographic and vegetative screening and visual attractions combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. These values were recognized during preparation of the "Arizona Strip Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement." Part of the unit has been proposed for inclusion in the Paria Wilderness Area.

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition be established as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, most of which supported our proposal. Many of these comments also advocated rejoining units 1-8A/19 and 1-8B. Others claimed some boundary roads were only ways. There were a few comments opposing our proposal for all or part of the unit.

#### BLM Decision

Field verification of the comments determined that the proper boundary had been identified in the proposal and that the unit contains wilderness character. It is established as a 124,428-acre Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 1-8B

#### Overlook

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is contiguous to the Vermillion Cliffs Natural Area on the Paria Plateau, three miles north of U.S. Highway 89A as it leaves the Kaibab Plateau. Its topography varies from gently-rolling hills to colorful sandstone cliffs and ridges. Vegetation varies from sagebrush to stands of pinyon and juniper.

The boundaries are formed by parcels of patented land, two roads, and lands which have been chained.

#### BLM Proposal

The unit's size, vegetation, and topographic screening combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the area containing the scattered patented parcels and the chaining be dropped from the unit, and that the remaining 7,348 acres undergo wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

There were many comments for this unit, most of which indicated the unit was natural and possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. There were also comments that stated the unit should be reunited with 1-8A. Others stated the unit was unnatural and did not meet the wilderness criteria.



## BLM Decision

The proposal eliminated the substantially unnatural portions from the unit. The remainder meets the wilderness criteria and is established as a Wilderness Study Area. It contains 7,348 acres.

Unit No. 1-9

Emmett Wash

### Description of the Unit

The unit is south of U.S. Highway 89A, immediately west of Marble Canyon Bridge. Most of the unit is flat or gently rolling. Two side canyons to Marble Canyon are in the unit. The predominant vegetation is grass with some low shrubs and cacti. There are ways, reservoirs and a landing strip in the unit. A portion of Grand Canyon National Park proposed for wilderness, forms the east boundary of the unit below the rim of Marble Canyon.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that 12,913 acres in the central portion of the unit, in essentially natural condition, undergo wilderness study. 12,943 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

### Summary of Public Comments

We received many comments on this unit most of which support the our proposal. However, a few were received which stated that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities or primitive recreation and should not be established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## BLM Decision

Information provided by commenters was not specific enough to support a reconsideration of our proposal. Therefore, the unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area. It contains 12,913 acres.

Unit No. 1-10

House Rock Valley

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in southeastern House Rock Valley south of U.S. Highway 89A, adjacent to the Marble Canyon portion of a Grand Canyon National Park wilderness recommendation. It is on a large plain with little topographic variation except in North Canyon. Vegetation is typical of the Great Basin with grasses and low shrubs predominating.

### BLM Proposal

The unit is generally unnatural due to the cumulative effects of over 20 miles of roads and ways and several reservoirs scattered throughout.

The unit lacks significant topographic and vegetative screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The broad, flat unit holds little attraction for primitive or unconfined types of activities.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments supported establishing a Wilderness Study Area, however, all comments were rather general or did not specifically address wilderness criteria.

### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review. It contains 15,437 acres.

### Unit No. 1-11

### Buffalo Range

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the center of House Rock Valley, 30 miles southwest of Page. The landscape is characterized by flat to gently rolling terrain with a vegetative cover of grasses, forbs, and low-growing shrubs.

The unit boundary is formed by a combination of roads and state-owned lands.

### BLM Proposal

The cumulative effect of over 20 miles of ways and numerous improvements dispersed throughout render the unit unnatural.

The overall lack of topographic and vegetative screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The featureless terrain within the unit holds little attraction for recreation activities.

We proposed that the entire unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Few comments were received on this unit. They were all rather general and did not specifically address the criteria.



### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review. It contains 25,139 acres.

### Unit No. 1-12

### North Canyon

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the southern portion of House Rock Valley, 35 miles southwest of Page. The landscape is characterized by flat to gently-rolling terrain to the edge of scenic Marble Canyon, with a vegetative cover of low cacti, grasses, forbs, and low-growing shrubs.

The unit is bounded by Kaibab National Forest on the west and south, Grand Canyon National Park on the southeast, and roads and state lands along the north.

### BLM Proposal

Although most of the unit appears to be affected by the forces of nature, several miles of roads divide the unit into subunits smaller than 5,000 acres.

The nature of the landscape does not provide outstanding opportunities for avoiding the sights, sounds, and evidence of others or for enjoying primitive and unconfined types of recreation opportunities.

We proposed that the entire 8,550-acre unit be dropped from further consideration as wilderness.

### Summary of Public Comments

Few comments were received. Some agreed and others disagreed with our recommendation. Most comments were general.

### BLM Decision

The comments received did not provide information that was specific enough to call for a change in the proposal. The 8,550-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 1-14

### Anderson Ranch

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the northern portion of House Rock Valley, 25 miles southwest of Page. The landscape is characterized by flat or subtly-rolling terrain

intersected by shallow washes. The vegetative cover is composed of low desert shrub, sagee, and grasses.

The unit is bounded by U.S. Highway 89A to the north and a combination of roads and state lands on the other boundaries.

#### BLM Proposal

The unit is affected primarily by the forces of nature. However, due to the nature of the landscape, the opportunities for experiencing solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding.

We proposed to drop the entire 6,053 acres from further study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments supported the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 6,053-acre unit does not meet requirements for further study and is dropped from wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-15

#### Round Valley

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is near the center of the Paria Plateau, 20 miles southwest of Page. The landscape is characterized by sandy ridges, valleys, small colorful sandstone outcroppings, and low mesas covered with low- to medium-density stands of pinyon and juniper and areas of sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by roads and state land.

#### BLM Proposal

Although most of the unit is in a natural condition, one road bisects the unit making both subunits smaller than 5,000 acres.

The combination of medium relief, low densities of large vegetation, and a narrow configuration make the dispersal and screening of people in the unit inadequate. Therefore, there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude. Neither are there outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the entire unit be dropped from further consideration.



### Summary of Public Comments

Few comments were received. The commenters agreed that the unit lacks vegetative screening and topographic diversity.

### BLM Decision

The unit has been divided by a road, reducing the subunits to less than the 5,000-acre minimum size needed for further consideration. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review. The entire unit contained 5,708 acres.

### Unit No. 1-16

### Big Ridge

### Description of the Unit

This unit is near the center of the Paria Plateau. It is characterized by rolling topography. The vegetation consists of medium-density pinyon and juniper with sagebrush openings interspersed throughout.

The unit is bounded by roads and is in a generally natural condition with substantial imprints only at the southeast corner. There is also an area on the east end with a road going through it.

### BLM Proposal

The lack of topographic diversity and lack of dense vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities to experience solitude or primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that this unit be dropped from wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Although we received support for our proposal, many comments support a further study of the unit, stating that the unit does in fact meet all wilderness criteria. Many felt the unit should be combined with unit 1-18.

### BLM Decision

The boundary between units 1-16 and 1-18 is a road.

The comments caused a reevaluation of the unit, but we determined that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is dropped from further review. It contains 6,912 acres.

Unit No. 1-17

Sand Hills

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the east-central portion of the Paria Plateau. It is characterized by thin stands of pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush. The topography includes rolling hills, sinks, buttes, and sandstone pinnacles.

BLM Proposal

Roads and state lands form the unit's boundaries. Over 32 miles of ways crisscross the unit. There are also several water developments and corrals. Cumulatively, those man-made developments significantly detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The topographic variation found in the unit, together with the vegetative screening and the unit's configuration, combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Some opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined types of recreation but they are not outstanding.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on this unit, many stating that the unit is natural and meets the definition of wilderness, while some said the unit does not meet the criteria.

BLM Decision

Although each way or improvement individually may not be offensive to the viewer, their distribution and cumulative effect renders the unit unnatural. The unit is dropped from further consideration. It contains 17,408 acres.

Unit No. 1-18

Corral Valley

Description of the Unit

The Corral Valley unit is on the western end of the Paria Plateau. It has a gently-rolling topography. Vegetation is primarily a pinyon and juniper woodland of varying densities.

The boundaries are formed by roads and a chaining along the southwest edge of the unit.

BLM Proposal

Much of the unit is in an essentially natural condition. The chaining, water developments, and several ways are the principal man-made influences in the unit.



The topography and vegetation do not provide enough screening to give an outstanding opportunity for avoiding evidences of man. Although some types of primitive and unconfined recreation may be conducted, the opportunities available are not outstanding.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on this unit, with many saying the boundary between it and 1-16 is only a way and that it should be a wilderness study area. Many other comments stated that the unit did not meet the criteria.

#### BLM Decision

We concluded that the unit does not appear to be natural. The boundary between 1-16 and 1-18 is a road. The comments caused a reevaluation of the unit but it was determined that the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The unit is dropped from further review. It contains 9,164 acres.

#### Unit No. 1-20

#### Kaibab

#### Description of the Unit

This unit begins 4 miles south of Fredonia. It is flat to gently rolling and covered with sagebrush, forbs, and grasses.

The boundaries are formed by the Kaibab Indian Reservation, Ryan Road, and by a road leading west toward Kanab Creek.

#### BLM Proposal

A 500 kV. powerline and over 20 miles of ways crisscross the unit. The cumulative effects of these significantly detract from the naturalness of the unit.

The unit's configuration, topography, and vegetation do not provide the screening necessary for one to avoid the evidences of others in the unit.

Although opportunities for some types of primitive and unconfined recreation exist, the unit offers no outstanding opportunities.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 11,990 acres.

Description of the Unit

This bi-state is 25 miles east of Fredonia. In Utah the unit is number UT-040-274. It is located on the east edge of the Buckskin Mountains which are characterized by a pinyon and juniper woodland at higher elevations, with sagebrush and other shrubs at lower elevations. Several short canyons cut through the lower reaches of the Kaibab Monocline in the unit and drain to the east. The overall topography includes rolling, slightly-broken hills.

The unit's boundaries are the Coyote Valley road and the Buckskin Mountain winter road. A 500 kV. powerline forms the northern boundary in Utah.

BLM Proposal

Many improvements, woodcutting activities, and ways are in the unit, leaving much of it in an unnatural condition. The northeast corner of the unit is in essentially a natural condition.

Opportunities do exist for some types of primitive and unconfined types of recreation, but those opportunities and the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. The natural portion does not contain sufficient screening to provide solitude.

We proposed that the bi-state unit be dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 11,635 acres. The Utah portion of 9,343 acres is also dropped from further review.

Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 20 miles east of Fredonia. In Utah it is unit UT-040-226. The rolling and slightly-broken Buckskin Mountains are the principal feature in the unit except for the sagebrush flats in its northwest portion. The Buckskin Mountains are characterized by stands of pinyon and juniper and associated species.

Roads form the boundaries of the unit.



## BLM Proposal

Man's imprints in the unit include roads, a 500 kV. powerline, a seeding, several reservoirs, and numerous ways that crisscross the unit. Taken together, these effects substantially degrade the naturalness of the unit.

The topographic and vegetative screening found in the unit provides solitude while the sagebrush flat portion of the unit does not. Overall, opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Hunting and other types of primitive and unconfined recreation may be enjoyed in the unit but, while even the hunting may be good, it is not considered outstanding.

We proposed that the bi-state unit be dropped from further consideration.

## Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

## BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 9,064 acres. The Utah portion of 3,328 acres is also dropped from further review.

## Unit No. 1-23

## Pasture Canyon

### Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 18 miles east of Fredonia. In Utah the unit's number is UT-040-224. The unit has sagebrush flats northwest of pinyon and juniper covered Buckskin Mountains. The topography in this part of the Buckskin Mountains is characterized by a rolling landscape, broken occasionally by shallow canyons.

Roads form the boundary of the unit.

## BLM Proposal

Man's imprints include mining activities, several resevoirs, a 500 kV. powerline, numerous ways, and several roads. The cumulative effects of these disturbances leave the unit in an unnatural condition.

The topographic and vegetative screening found in the Buckskin Mountains provide outstanding solitude while the sagebrush portion does not. There are some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Of these activities, the hunting opportunities are the best but they are not outstanding.

We proposed the unit be dropped from further consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 13,850 acres. The Utah portion of 437 acres is also dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Unit No. 1-24

#### Rock Canyon

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles east of Fredonia. It is in the Buckskin Mountains where pinyon and juniper is interspersed with sagebrush and other shrubs.

The Kaibab National Forest forms the souther boundary. Roads form the other boundaries.

#### BLM Proposal

In the intensive inventory, we found three roads which subdivide the unit into parcels which are less than 5,000 acres. None of the contiguous U.S. Forest Service lands are proposed for further wilderness consideration.

The vegetation and topography of the unit do provide some opportunities to avoid the evidences of man but those opportunities are not outstanding. No outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation exist.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 5,171 acres.



Unit No. 1-25

LeFevre Canyon

Description of the Unit

This unit is 10 miles east of Fredonia, north of U.S. Highway 89A. The terrain ranges from flat to gently rolling with some relatively shallow washes. It is covered with scattered juniper, grasses and cacti.

Roads and patented lands form the unit boudaries.

BLM Proposal

Water developments, several ways, and a telephone line are very visible in the unit. Cumulatively, these effects are substantially noticeable in the unit.

The open vista across the unit and its general lack of interesting features do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude of primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed dropping the unit from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 18,912 acres.

Unit No. 1-26

Muggins Flat

Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 10 miles east of Fredonia. In Utah the unit is number UT-040-223. It is characterized by flat to slightly-broken topography covered by sagebrush and grasses.

Roads and state and patented lands form the boundaries.

BLM Proposal

Numerous roads, ways, and water developments are scattered throughout the unit. A 500 kV. powerline runs through the center of it. These imprints are substantially noticeable.

Visibility throughout the unit is generally uninterrupted by the low relief and vegetation. There are no outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Neither does the unit provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Commenters concurred with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains 17,894 acres. The Utah portion of 9,308 acres is also dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-27

#### Shinarump Cliffs

#### Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is immediately east of Fredonia. Pinyon and juniper are found on the Shinarump Cliffs in the northern half while the southern half of the unit is a flat grassland. In Utah, the unit number is UT-040-219. The boundaries are formed by roads and patented lands.

#### BLM Proposal

Roads, ways, and water developments are found throughout the unit. There are some effects of off-road vehicle use along the top of the Shinarump Cliffs. Cumulatively, these imprints significantly detract from the natural appearance of the unit.

The flat portion of the unit does not provide opportunities for solitude. The vegetation along the Shinarump Cliffs provides better screening for solitude, but still does not provide outstanding opportunities for avoiding the evidences of man. There are a few opportunities available for enjoying primitive or unconfined types of recreation. Those opportunities are not outstanding.

We proposed this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments agreed with our proposal other comments felt that outstanding opportunities do exist.

#### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review. It contains 13,696 acres. The Utah portion of 537 acres is also dropped from further review.



Description of the Unit

The unit is south of U.S. Highway 89A, 5 miles southeast of Fredonia. It is principally a sagebrush flat with a few washes going through it. Pinyon and juniper are found throughout but they are scattered, except in the southern tip of the unit.

The boundaries are formed by roads, and state and patented lands.

BLM Proposal

A 500 kv. powerline passes through the northern half of the unit. Numerous reservoirs, and ways form a network that covers the unit, leaving it in an unnatural condition.

The unit is rather large but lacks topographic and vegetative screening, preventing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of significant features in the unit limits opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments agree with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 40,533-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles south of Fredonia. The western half is a sagebrush flat while the eastern half has low hills with pinyon, juniper, and large openings of sagebrush and grass separating them.

BLM Proposal

The unit contains numerous significant impairments on naturalness and lacks the vegetative and topographic screening necessary to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive or unconfined types of recreation. The unit was proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with our proposal.

### BLM Decision

This 20,275-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness review.

### Unit No. 1-30

### Little Cedar Knoll

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 12 miles south of Fredonia. Its terrain includes rolling to steep hills and drainages. The vegetation is principally pinyon, juniper, and low desert shrubs.

The north and west boundaries are formed by roads and the east and south by chainings.

### BLM Proposal

The unit is not in a natural condition. Numerous ways form a network throughout the unit, connecting several livestock water developments.

The size and narrow shape of the unit, combined with only fair topographic and vegetative screening, do not provide outstanding solitude. Although some opportunities for recreation exist, there are no significant features that would make those opportunities outstanding.

We proposed dropping the unit from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 10,320-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

### Unit No. 1-31

### Kanab Creek

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles southwest of Fredonia. Kanab Creek forms a canyon that runs the length of the unit and is fed by several side canyons. The rest of the unit is generally flat to gently rolling. The vegetation is principally low shrubs and grasses.



The north boundary is formed by the Kaibab Indian Reservation. Roads, state, and patented lands form the rest of the boundary.

#### BLM Proposal

The unit contains 9,658 acres that are in an unnatural condition or have been divided into parts too small to consider further. The imprints that are found within the unit included a 500 kV. powerline, numerous water developments, corrals, and roads.

One road extends into the unit as a "cherrystem." The impairments are principally on or near the northern and eastern boundaries. A road cuts off the southern tip.

The topography and large size provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation also exist in Kanab Creek Canyon.

We proposed that the 39,907-acre natural portion of the unit undergo wilderness study and that 9,658 acres be dropped from further review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received. Most agreed with our proposal that the natural portion undergo study. However there were some that disagreed with the determination that the unit is now substantially natural. Some also stated an interest in drawing back the north boundary to provide for utilities rights-of-way.

#### BLM Decision

Portions of the unit that were significantly impaired were dropped in the proposal. Utilities rights-of-way are considered during the study phase. However, the comments will be retained for use during the study phase of the wilderness review. The unit is established as a 39,907-acre Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 1-32

#### Scotts Hole

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Kanab Plateau 20 miles southwest of Fredonia. The landscape consists of gently-rolling plains covered with sagebrush and low desert shrubs.

The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

### BLM Proposal

Because the landscape provides little screening, the improvements and disturbances in the unit are substantially noticeable, making it appear unnatural.

The same lack of topographic and vegetative diversity mean opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding.

We proposed that the entire 11,264-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Comments agreed with our proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 11,264-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

### Unit No. 1-33A

### Hack Canyon (A)

### Description of the Unit

This unit is on the Kanab Plateau, 35 miles southwest of Fredonia. The landscape is characterized by the 2,000-foot-deep Hack Canyon, along with numerous side canyons. Pinyon and juniper trees, grasses, and desert shrubs each predominate in different portions of the unit.

### BLM Proposal

All but 6,364 of the total 70,046 acres were found to have the necessary requirements for further wilderness study. The 6,364 acres were dropped because of roads bisecting the unit or areas where numerous impairments degraded the unit's naturalness.

### Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received both for and against further wilderness study. A few of the comments provided specific information about improvements while others made general comments about the outstanding qualities found in the unit. Some comments addressed current and past mining activity near the unit and expressed the opinion that those activities, combined with "grandfathered" mining activities that are taking place in parts of the unit, should disqualify it. Other comments stated the unit did not contain outstanding qualities.



## BLM Decision

Significant impairments on naturalness have been deleted from the unit. While some "grandfathered" mining activities have been conducted and numerous mining claims established, the presence or absence of mineral values is not a factor that can be considered during the wilderness inventory. Field work has confirmed the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation in its natural portions. The unit is established as a 63,682-acre Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 1-33B

Hack Canyon (B)

### Description of the Unit

This unit is on the Kanab Plateau, 30 miles southwest of Fredonia. It is characterized by rolling topography with the road down upper Hack Canyon forming the south boundary. Roads and state land form the other boundaries. Desert shrubs and grasses cover the area.

### BLM Proposal

The unit lacks the necessary wilderness characteristics for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. It was recommended that the 10,802-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, both for and against further wilderness study. Most of the comments advocating Wilderness Study Area status for the unit described the situation in unit 1-33A rather than 1-33B. Other comments were general and did not specifically address wilderness criteria.

## BLM Decision

No comments provided information specific enough to alter the BLM proposal. The 10,802-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness review.

Unit No. 1-34

Robinson

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on Kanab Plateau, 35 miles southwest of Fredonia. The landscape is characterized by the 1,000-foot deep Robinson Canyon, its side canyons, and rolling to broken terrain atop the Kanab Plateau. Vegetation varies from pinyon and juniper to low desert shrubs and grasses. The boundary is formed by roads, unnatural areas, and state land.

## BLM Proposal

The unit is essentially natural. We proposed to drop 70 acres along the east boundary, including a "cherrystem." The rugged topography combines with the vegetative cover to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. We proposed the natural 9,671 acres of the unit undergo wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, both for and against further wilderness study. Most were general comments about outstanding qualities found in the unit. Some comments addressed mineral values, mining claims, and current and past mining activities near the unit and stated that those activities, combined with "grandfathered" mining activities that are taking place in parts of the unit, should disqualify it. Other comments stated the unit did not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

## BLM Decision

Significant impacts on naturalness have been deleted from the unit. While some "grandfathered" mining activities have been conducted and numerous mining claims established, the presence or absence of mineral values is not a factor that can be considered during the wilderness inventory. Field work has confirmed the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation in its natural portions. The natural portions, 9,671 acres, are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 1-38

## Nates Canyon

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Kanab Plateau, 35 miles southwest of Fredonia. It is characterized by gently-rolling hills cut by broad, shallow canyons with a vegetative cover of desert shrub and scattered groves of juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads and a section of state land.

## BLM Proposal

The unit is in a natural condition. The improvements and disturbances of man in the unit are not substantially noticeable with the exception of 5 small reservoirs, one stock tank and a way.

The gently-rolling terrain and a lack of dense or large vegetation does not provide enough screening to give outstanding opportunities for solitude. Those same factors provide less than outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



We proposed that the entire 5,550-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments of a general nature discussed the quality of the unit's solitude and recreation. Some comments agreed with BLM's proposal while others said that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

#### BLM Decision

Since the comments were of a general nature and did not provide information to substantiate the establishment of this unit as a Wilderness Study Area, the 5,550-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Unit No. 1-39

#### Yellowstone Mesa

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 20 miles southwest of Fredonia. It contains a pinyon, juniper, and grass-covered mesa in the northern portion, and a grass and low-shrub flatland in the southern part.

The boundary is formed by state and patented land on the north and west, and roads along its other boundaries. Several parcels of state and patented lands are interspersed through its interior.

#### BLM Proposal

Man's imprints substantially affect the unit. These imprints include water developments, a 500 kV. powerline, gravel quarry, chaining, several dikes, numerous ways, and several roads.

The topographic and vegetative screening found in the unit is not good enough to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or features that provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the 51,519-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

#### BLM Decision

This 51,519-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-40

Bull Pasture

Description of the Unit

The bi-state unit is part of the Vermillion Cliffs, 10 miles southeast of Colorado City. In Utah, the unit number is UT-040-218. The landscape includes cliffs, canyons, ridges and buttes with a vegetative cover of pinyon, juniper, and areas of sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by a combination of roads, state and patented lands, and the Kaibab Indian Reservation.

BLM Proposal

Several miles of ways, a road, and a reservoir are substantially noticeable and make the unit unnatural.

The landscape offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the entire 11,034-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study because the unit is not natural.

Summary of Public Comments

Comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 11,034-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study. The Utah portion of 5,668 acres is also dropped from further review.

Unit No. 1-41

Cottonwood Point

Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is east of Colorado City. In Utah its number is UT-040-143, and is called Canaan Mountain. The unit has rugged sandstone ridges and peaks, with the only relatively level land in the canyons. The vegetation ranges from grasses and low shrubs at lower elevations to ponderosa pine scattered along its ridges.

BLM Proposal

The boundary is formed by patented lands and a road. The Utah portion is contiguous to Zion National Park.

Three small parcels of the Arizona portion are unnatural but the remainder is in a substantially natural condition. Man's imprints in the unit are a



sanitary landfill, woodcutting, off-road vehicle use, and a water development.

The topography and vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. One boundary change was made, in accordance with BLM policy, where a narrow finger of public land extended outside the bulk of the unit in Rosy Canyon. The scenery and other geologic attractions provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of eation.

We proposed 341 acres be dropped and 6,449 acres of the unit undergo further wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

The majority of comments agreed with BLM's proposal. Some felt the unit had no outstanding features or that the unit should be adjusted to eliminate all the lands below the cliff line.

#### BLM Decision

The unnatural 341 acres of the unit are eliminated from it. Boundary adjustments are not made based on a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation in a natural area. We made a reevaluation of the quality of opportunities for solitude and recreation, and found them to be outstanding. The unit, containing 6,449 acres in Arizona and 47,170 acres in Utah is established as a Wilderness Study Area. An additional 15,540 acres in Utah are dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-45

#### Wild Band Pockets

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Antelope Valley, 25 miles south of Colorado City. The landscape consists of flat to gently-rolling terrain with a small ridgeline and a vegetative cover of grasses and saltbush.

The unit is bounded by roads, 2 section of state land, and the southern edge of an area determined to be unnatural in the initial inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

Imprints of man occur in the unit such as corrals, several ways, and water catchments. The cumulative effect of these imprints is minimal, making the unit primarily natural.

Because the landscape provides little or no screening, the opportunities for solitude are less than outstanding. Likewise, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding.

We proposed that the entire 7,706-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments support BLM's proposal although it was mentioned some people prefer open country wilderness to canyon country.

#### BLM Decision

The 7,706-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

#### Unit No. 1-47

#### Swapp

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 30 miles south of Colorado City. Its terrain is generally flat or rolling and occasionally dissected by washes. The vegetation is primarily low shrubs or grasses.

The boundaries follow roads and are adjacent to areas found to be unnatural during the initial inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

Roads and ways crisscross the unit, creating an overall unnatural appearance.

The flat terrain and narrow shape of the unit do not provide opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed the 9,022-acre unit be dropped from further consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments agree with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 9,022-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.



Description of the Unit

The unit is 35 miles south of Colorado City. The terrain is generally rolling with five knolls rising above the open terrain. Much of the unit is covered with low shrubs and scattered juniper trees.

The unit is bounded by roads and 2 sections of state land.

BLM Proposal

The over 6 miles of roads and ways a chaining and other disturbed areas combine to give the unit an unnatural appearance.

The combination of narrow shape, medium relief, and sparse vegetation provides less than outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The lack of special features and the landscape character contribute to the lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the entire 12,189-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Comments agree with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 12,189-acre unit does not meet wilderness requirements and is dropped from further study.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 40 miles south of Colorado City. Most of it has broken topography with pinyon and juniper providing cover.

The boundary is formed by the Grand Canyon National Park, roads, and patented lands. Contiguous park lands have been proposed for wilderness.

BLM Proposal

Much of the unit has remained natural but there are several human imprints, including water developments, roads, ways, a cleared fenceline, and a chaining (along the east, extending into Grand Canyon National Park).

The topography and vegetation do provide some screening in the unit. The screening is not enough to provide outstanding opportunities to avoid the evidences of man. The unit's shape also makes it impossible to avoid man's evidences. There are some opportunities for hiking and sightseeing, but the opportunities for these and other types of recreation are not outstanding.

We proposed that this 4,122-acre unit be dropped from further consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments received stated that the unit doesn't possess wilderness characteristics. Others made general comments that the unit should be a wilderness study area.

#### BLM Decision

The public comments did not provide us with information that caused us to alter our proposal. The 4,122-acre unit is dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-50

#### Toroweap

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the eastern slope of the Uinkaret Mountains, 15 miles south-east of the Mt. Trunbull townsite. The landscape is characterized by 6 cinder cones in the west, lava fields, washes, rock outcroppings and undulating plains in the east. The vegetation ranges from pinyon and juniper in the high country in the west, to sagebrush, blackbrush and other shrubs in the low land in the east.

The unit is bounded by roads, patented land, and Grand Canyon National Park.

Most of the unit is in a natural condition, except for 24 acres of agricultural development and a road and dike.

The rugged terrain and the dense vegetation in the west provide excellent screening for outstanding opportunities for solitude. One area of 88 acres, forming a narrow finger in the southeast, was dropped in accordance with BLM policy. The landscape also provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that 5,312 acres of the unit meeting the wilderness criteria be studied further, while 115 acres not meeting the criteria be dropped from further wilderness study.



### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received, with most favoring further study. Other comments said the east half lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped, while another said the north boundary should be changed to include some land to the north.

### BLM Decision

Although the eastern part of the unit is generally flat and does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, the topographic and vegetative screening in the west half do provide those qualities, so the entire natural portion of the unit must be established as a wilderness study area. It is not possible to include the area north of the current boundary since that area is unnatural. The unit is established as a 5,312-acre Wilderness Study Area. A total of 115 acres are dropped from further review.

### Unit No. 1-51

### Mount Logan

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Sawmill Mountains, 6 miles southeast of Mt. Trumbull townsite. It is characterized by rugged topography and a variety of vegetation, ranging from low shrubs, pinyon, juniper, and, in high elevations, ponderosa pine.

The unit's boundaries are formed by roads, and state and patented lands.

### BLM Proposal

Much of the unit is natural. Man's imprints include water developments, a chaining, landing strip, several roads and ways, and a cleared fence line. Some of the roads cut off parcels of the unit that are less than 5,000 acres, but which are natural.

The size and shape of the unit, its rugged terrain, and vegetative screening, provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the natural portion of the unit containing 8,803 acres undergo wilderness study, and that 9,805 acres be dropped from further review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most of the comments agreed our assessment of the opportunities for solitude and recreation. There were some general comments opposing further study.

## BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal or provided any new information not already considered. The 8,803 acres in a natural condition that also provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, are established as a Wilderness Study Area. The other 9,805 acres are dropped from further review.

### Unit No. 1-52

### Mt. Trumbull

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 11 miles east of the town of Mt. Trumbull. The terrain is characterized by a 3,000-foot elevation change from the plains to the summit of the tallest mountain in the Arizona Strip District. This steep terrain is covered with pinyon, juniper, ponderosa pine, oak, aspen, and sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by roads, state lands, and several chainings in the east. Within the unit are many archaeological sites.

#### BLM Proposal

Most of the unit is in a natural condition; however, the eastern portion contains several small areas of chainings that are not in a natural condition. Several spring developments and 2 ways are in the unit but do not dominate the landscape.

Because of the dense vegetation and the rugged topography, opportunities for solitude are outstanding. A narrow finger of the unit east has been deleted, in accordance with BLM policy.

The unit also provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that that 7,285 acres of the 8,400-acre unit meeting the wilderness criteria be studied further, and that 1,115 acres that do not meet the criteria be dropped from the review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments agreed with our proposal. One comment said that the unit has no outstanding opportunities and that a pipeline should be eliminated from the unit.

#### BLM Decision

The 7,285 acres identified in the proposal contain wilderness character and are established as a Wilderness Study Area. The other portions are dropped.



Description of the Unit

The unit is in the southern portion of the Uinkaret Plateau, 7 miles east of the town of Mt. Trumbull. The landscape consists of several cinder cones and rolling terrain with a vegetative cover of grasses, small shrubs, sagebrush, pinyon, and juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads and several sections of both state and patented lands.

BLM Proposal

All 5,555 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Most of the unit is in a natural condition; however, several roads cut the unit into sub-units smaller than 5,000 acres.

There is not enough screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Neither does the landscape character provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 5,555-acre unit does not meet the wilderness criteria, and is dropped from further study.

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 15 miles northeast of the town of Mt. Trumbull. The landscape is cinder cones, basalt flows, and rolling terrain with a vegetative cover of pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by roads and several sections of state and patented lands.

BLM Proposal

All 25,702 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Because of the cumulative effect of 35 miles of roads and ways throughout the interior, the unit is in an unnatural condition.

The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because of nature of the landscape and its inability to provide adequate screening or recreational interest.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal to drop the unit.

#### BLM Decision

The unit 25,702-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

#### Unit No. 1-56

#### Crosby Tank

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the southwest portion of the Uinkaret Plateau, 10 miles northeast of the town of Mt. Trumbull. The landscape is characterized by flat terrain with scattered cinder cones covered by sagebrush, other low growing shrubs, and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and several sections of state and patented land.

#### BLM Proposal

All 8,320 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The man-made improvements in the unit do not dominate the landscape, and so it is in natural condition; however, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because of the nature of the terrain and vegetation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 8,320-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.



Description of the Unit

The unit is on the southwest edge of the Uinkaret Plateau, 35 miles southwest of Colorado City. The landscape is characterized by rolling hills and low, lava-rock-strewn bluffs. The vegetative cover is low-growing, cold-desert shrubs and grasses. One species of phacelia, which is on the sensitive plant list, is found in the unit.

The unit is bounded mainly by roads with several parcels of state and patented lands completing the boundary.

BLM Proposal

All 15,633 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study. A portion of the unit is in an unnatural condition because of the cumulative effect of 13 miles of roads and ways throughout, and 500 acres of chaining in the southwest. A larger-than-5,000-acre portion around Moriah Knoll in the north, appears to be in a natural condition.

Because of the nature of the landscape, there are few opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 15,633-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the western edge of the Uinkaret Plateau, 30 miles southwest of Colorado City. The landscape is characterized by the 1000-foot Hurricane Cliffs, passing north to south through the unit, with rolling plains both atop and below the cliffs. The vegetative cover consists generally of grasses and low shrubs.

The unit is bounded by roads and parcels of state land. A portion of the east boundary is formed by the historic Temple Trail, while another historic trail, the Dominguez-Escalante, passes through the middle.

BLM Proposal

All 36,071 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit is generally unnatural in appearance due to the combined effect of 27 miles of roads and ways, 13 stock tanks, a dike and 3-1/2 miles of ditches.

The character of the cliffs is such that views along the cliffs and in the plains do not allow avoidance of the sights, sounds and evidence of others. The cliffs do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Some of the comments agreed with BLM's proposal while others felt the unit is natural or contains outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### BLM Decision

Reevaluation of the unit leads us to concur that there are opportunities for solitude and recreation. However, those opportunities are not outstanding. The 36,071-acre unit does not meet the wilderness criteria and is dropped from further consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-59

#### Unikaret

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 40 miles southwest of Fredonia. The landscape is characterized by rolling hills; bluffs; knolls; lava flows covered with grasses; low shrubs; few trees; and phacelia, a plant species listed as sensitive. Two historic trails, the Dominguez-Escalante and the Temple Trail, pass through the unit.

The unit is bound entirely by roads and parcels of state land.

#### BLM Proposal

All 43,059 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Owing to the cumulative effect of over 19 miles of roads and ways within the unit, 9 stock tanks, and a dike around the periphery, the unit is not in a natural condition.

Opportunities for solitude are not outstanding because of the terrain.

There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation in the unit for the same reason.



### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received and most agreed with BLM, saying that roads, wells reservoirs, ponds, and dikes exist. Another comment opposed our proposal, saying there are outstanding opportunities.

### BLM Decision

No public comments specifically questioned the BLM proposal. The single opposing comment did not provide specific information that alters the our proposal. The 43,059-acre unit is dropped from further consideration.

### Unit No. 1-62

### Flat Top

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 30 miles southwest of Colorado City. The unit is characterized by generally flat and rolling hills dissected occasionally by wide, deep washes. This topography is covered with low shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and two sections of state land.

### BLM Proposal

The 9,088-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit is in an unnatural condition due to the cumulative effect of 5 miles of roads and ways within the unit and 6 stock tanks distributed around the periphery.

The terrain and the vegetative cover in the unit do not provide enough screening to create outstanding opportunities for solitude. The featureless terrain within the unit holds little attraction for recreation activities.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 9,088-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-63

Rocks

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 35 miles southwest of Colorado City. It is characterized by generally flat or rolling hills with occasional washes, and by a very small area in the middle of the unit of bluffs with lava outcrops. Vegetation in the unit consists of grasses and low shrubs.

The unit is bounded by roads and 2 state sections.

BLM Proposal

All 8,960 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit exists in an unnatural condition due to the cumulative visual effects of stock tanks, reservoirs, over 5 miles of roads, dikes, and a rock quarry.

The landscape in the unit provides very little screening for avoiding the sight, sounds, and evidence of others. As a result, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

BLM Decision

The 8,960-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-64

Snake Pond

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the northern end of the Uinkaret Plateau, 25 miles southwest of Colorado City. The landscape is made up of flat or rolling hills with washes, and covered with low shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and several sections of state land. A portion of the historic Honeymoon Trail passes through the northern portion of the unit.

BLM Proposal

All 13,309 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.



The cumulative effect of over 15 miles of roads and ways, 10 stock tanks, and dikes, and a large 500 kV. transmission line through the center dominate the unit and leave it unnatural.

The opportunities for solitude in the unit are not outstanding due to the nature of the landscape and its inability to provide adequate screening. The nearly featureless terrain does not provide primitive and unconfined recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 13,309-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

#### Unit No. 1-65

#### White Pockets

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the northern end of the Uinkaret Plateau, 30 miles southwest of Colorado City. It is characterized by low bluffs and rolling hills with washes. The vegetative cover consists of low shrubs and grasses.

The boundary of the unit follows mainly roads and one portion of a section of state land.

#### BLM Proposal

All 8,653 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit is in an unnatural condition due to 12 miles of roads and ways, 5 stock tanks, and dikes, and a large 500 kV. transmission line across the north. The cumulative effect of these improvements is substantially noticeable.

Since the nature of the terrain provides little or no screening from the presence of others, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Likewise, there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 8,653-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-66

East Antelope

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau 15 miles southwest of Colorado City. The landscape is flat plains, low smooth hills, small mesas covered with very low-growing vegetation, and small areas of low-density pinyon and juniper.

The unit boundary is formed almost entirely by roads with a portion of state land completing the boundary on the northeast side. Much of the northern boundary is formed by the Honeymoon Trail.

### BLM Proposal

All 6,989 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The cumulative effect of over 15 miles of roads and ways, 10 stock tanks, and dikes, and a large 500 kV. transmission line through the center, dominate the unit and leave it unnatural.

The opportunities for solitude in the unit are not outstanding due to the nature of the landscape and its inability to provide adequate screening. The near featureless terrain does not provide primitive and unconfined recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 6,989-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-67

Atkins Well

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the northern end of the Uinkaret Plateau, 10 miles southwest of Colorado City. The landscape is characterized by plains, low, smooth hills, and buttes covered with low vegetation such as snakeweed and grass.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands.



### BLM Proposal

All 6,451 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Most of the unit is natural. Evidence of man's imprint is substantially noticeable, however, in the reservoirs, corrals, and two buildings along the southern boundary.

Because the landscape provides little screening either topographically or vegetatively, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. There are also three narrow fingers where there is no solitude. The featureless terrain in the unit provides little attraction for recreationists to experience outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 6,451-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

### Unit No. 1-68

### Spring Mountain

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 6 miles west of Colorado City. The topography is slightly hilly with some small canyons and ravines. The predominant cover in the western portion is pinyon and juniper with sagebrush flats on the south and east.

The boundary is formed by state and patented lands and a road.

### BLM Proposal

All 7,104 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit has not remained in a natural condition. Imprints include a chaining, extensive woodcutting, several trails, prospecting scars, and a road.

Solitude can be found in some parts of the unit but the opportunities for it are not outstanding. The size and shape of the unit also detract from the opportunities for solitude. In-holdings in the east half of the unit create narrow fingers of public land that, according to BLM policy were removed from further consideration. Doing this reduces the size of the unit to less than 5,000 acres. Although there are some opportunities for hiking and rockhounding, the opportunities for those and other types of primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 7,104-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

### Unit No. 1-69

### Caanan Gap

### Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 10 miles west of Colorado City. The Utah portion is numbered UT-040-137. The topography and vegetation vary from sagebrush flats in the west to pinyon and juniper on Lost Spring Mountain.

The unit is bounded by roads, and state and patented lands.

### BLM Proposal

All 22,950 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Man's imprint is substantially noticeable in the unit. Much of the top of Lost Spring Mountain has been chained. Other imprints include water developments, a road, and several ways.

The unit provides some opportunities for solitude but the generally-flat terrain and removal of vegetative screening by the chaining, does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments agreed with BLM's proposal. Other comments said there were outstanding opportunities for solitude.

### BLM Decision

Examination of the unit shows that while there are opportunities for solitude, the land ownership pattern, unusual shape, and unnaturalness disqualify the 22,950-acre unit from further wilderness consideration.

The Utah portion of 300 acres is also dropped from further review.



Unit No. 1-71

Cottonwood Canyon

Description of the Unit

This is a bi-state unit 20 miles west of Colorado City. The unit number for the Utah portion is UT-040-138. The topography is relatively flat or gently rolling except for the Hurricane Cliffs, which run the length of the unit. The vegetation is predominantly creosote on the northern end and shrubs and grasses toward the south end.

The boundaries are formed by roads, state and patented lands.

BLM Proposal

All 41,472 acres of this unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although the unit is quite large, it is easy to see across it. The lack of vegetative and topographic screening make it difficult to avoid the evidence of man. There are opportunities for some types of primitive and unconfined recreation, but opportunities for this kind of recreation are not outstanding.

Summary of Public Comments

We received comments that said the unit does meet the wilderness criteria and comments that said the unit does not. Many people felt that the unit provided an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Some of the comments said the western boundary is not a road and that units 1-76, 1-72, 1-79, and 1-77 should be combined with unit 1-71.

BLM Decision

The presence of a road along the west boundary was confirmed. The number of improvements dispersed throughout the unit, the lack of good vegetative or topographic screening, and limited opportunities for recreation do not allow the unit to be studied further. The interest that some people have in the Hurricane Cliffs as an attraction does not override the unit's overall lack of wilderness character. The 41,472-acre unit is dropped from further consideration. The 14,396 acres in Utah are also dropped.

Unit No. 1-72

East Mesa

Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 12 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The unit number for the Utah portion is UT-040-135. The landscape consists of a large mesa, small knolls, and areas of flat to gently-sloping terrain. This unit

has a vegetative cover ranging from creosote, yucca, and cacti in the north, to sagebrush and rabbitbrush in the south.

The unit is bounded by roads and one section of state land.

#### BLM Proposal

The 29,286-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Most of the unit exists in a natural condition. A large 500 kV. transmission line and the accompanying road, however, dominate an area across the center of the unit. The presence of these imprints divides the unit into 2 smaller sub-units, both of which appear natural.

Although the unit provides some opportunities for solitude, a lack of adequate topographic and vegetative screening make those opportunities less than outstanding. The lack of landform or vegetative features fail to attract most recreationists or provide primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The opportunities for those types of recreation are less than outstanding.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments agreed with BLM's proposal, while other general comments did not. Still other comments said there are outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. They also disagreed that the east boundary is a road and suggested boundary adjustments to join unit 1-71 and 1-72.

#### BLM Decision

The east boundary is a road that is regularly maintained by BLM. We agree that there are opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation, but the lack of screening and attractions does not provide outstanding opportunities. The 29,286-acre unit is dropped from further review. The 6,225-acre Utah portion is also dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-73A

#### Yellowhorse Flat

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in Arizona, 16 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. There are grasses and scattered low shrubs covering the drainages, low hills, and large open areas.

The boundary is formed by roads.

#### BLM Proposal

The 10,440-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further review.



Most of the unit has retained its primeval character, in its interior. Improvements along the boundary include minerals assessment activities, several water developments, and several ways.

There are some opportunities to avoid man's influences in some of the drainages but the opportunities for obtaining solitude in the unit are not outstanding. There are no features in the unit that provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most of the comments agreed with BLM's proposal but others (some general and some specific) said the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. They also said that they felt the southern boundary was not a road, and that the area to the south (dropped during initial inventory because of its small size) should be added to the unit.

#### BLM Decision

Reevaluation of the unit and its boundaries determined that the southern boundary is a road, and so we are not able to add the area to the south to the unit. Our assessment led us to concur that there are opportunities for solitude and recreation but those opportunities are not outstanding. The 10,440-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-73B

#### Quail Draw

#### Description of the Unit

This bi-state unit is 10 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The unit number for the Utah portion is UT-040-134. The landscape consists of a portion of a large mesa, a large ridge, ravines, hills, and flat to sloping terrain on the north.

The vegetative cover ranges from creosote, yucca, and cacti in the north, to sagebrush, low-growing desert shrub, and areas of scattered pinyon and juniper in the south.

The unit is bounded by roads and a large block of state land.

#### BLM Proposal

The 22,540-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Half of the unit is natural. The other half is dominated by imprints of man such as mining prospects, ways, and a large 500 kV. transmission line. These imprints are mainly in the northern end of the unit and in its southern tip.

Because of the relatively open terrain and the lack of dense vegetation for screening, the opportunity for solitude is not outstanding. The lack of natural features that would provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation make those opportunities less than outstanding.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several of the comments agreed with BLM's proposal. Others felt the unit offered outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### BLM Decision

Reexamination of the unit shows that although there are opportunities for solitude and recreation in the unit, those opportunities are not outstanding. The 22,540-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness review. The 2,635-acre Utah portion is also dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-74

#### Seegmiller

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in Arizona, 20 miles south of St. George, Utah. Part of the top and side of Seegmiller Mountain are included in the unit. Much of the rugged terrain is covered with a medium-density stand of pinyon and juniper.

The boundaries are formed by roads, state and patented lands, and an area that we determined to be unnatural during initial inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

The 8,550-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Man's imprints in the unit are substantially noticeable. These include over 1,100 acres of chaining, several water developments, and several miles of ways.

The long, narrow shape of the unit and the lack of adequate topographic or vegetative screening make it difficult to experience solitude. There are no outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. None specifically addressed the unit's wilderness characteristics.

#### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal. The 8,550-acre unit is dropped from further review.



Unit No. 1-76

Gyp Pocket

Description of the Unit

The unit is in Hurricane Valley, 20 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The terrain consists of rolling hills and small knolls with a vegetative cover of low shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and a state section on the north.

BLM Proposal

Man's imprints is substantially noticeable in the 7,275-acre unit. There are several improvements such as stock tanks, roads and ways, and a dike. The terrain and screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude. We proposed the unit be dropped from further review.

Summary of Public Comments

Few comments were received. Some stated the road along the east side of the unit is a way, and that the unit should be combined with units 1-77 and 1-71. Other comments agreed with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

The east boundary is a road, leaving us unable to combine the unit with 1-71. Man's imprints and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation make it necessary to drop the 7,275-acre unit from further review.

Unit No. 1-77

Nutter Pond

Description of the Unit

This unit is in Arizona in Hurricane Wash, 28 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. Its terrain is mildly rugged, with rolling hills occasionally dissected by washes. It is covered with low shrubs and grasses.

The boundaries are formed by roads and an area determined to be unnatural during initial inventory.

BLM Proposal

The 9,467-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Man's imprints are visible throughout most of the unit, with their combined effects leaving it unnatural. The imprints include several water developments, dikes, and ways.

The open terrain does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Some comments agreed with BLM's proposal. Most of them though, felt roads were ways and that the unit is natural and does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some stated that the road along the east side is only a way and that it should be combined with unit 1-71.

### BLM Decision

The east boundary is a road, leaving us unable to combine the unit with 1-71. In our judgment, man's imprints are noticeable in the unit and it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The 9,467-acre unit is dropped from further review.

### Unit No. 1-78

### Lower Hurricane

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, 20 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The landscape is rolling plains, and some low hills covered with grasses and low shrubs.

The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

### BLM Proposal

The 5,018-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further review.

Although there are several imprints of man such as ways, catchments, and a canal, the unit remains in a natural condition.

Because there is a lack of adequate screening, both topographic and vegetative, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Likewise, the nature of the terrain provides little or no opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Some comments agreed with BLM's proposal, while others felt there are outstanding opportunities and questioned whether or not the boundaries are roads.

### BLM Decision

The boundaries are formed by roads and the screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. While there may be opportunities for primitive recreation, those opportunities are not outstanding, and so, the 5,018-acre unit is dropped from further review.



Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, adjacent to Hurricane Wash, 30 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. Its terrain is generally flat with some rolling hills and shallow washes. The vegetation is principally low shrubs or grasses.

The boundaries are formed by roads and state land.

BLM Proposal

The 4,996-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

There are a few livestock improvements in the unit, but most significantly, it is bisected by a road that leaves the remaining parcels too small for further review.

The unit's small size and its open, rolling terrain provides no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Most spoke in general terms but one doubted the presence of roads as boundaries for the unit. It suggested that the unit be combined with units 1-71, 1-76, 1-77, 1-78, and 1-79.

BLM Decision

The 4,996-acre unit is bounded by roads and is too small for further consideration. It is dropped from the wilderness review.

Description of the Unit

The unit in Arizona, is just east of Main Street Valley, and 25 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The terrain consists of hilly terrain cut by washes, and smooth plains. The vegetative cover is mostly grasses and low shrubs.

The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

BLM Proposal

The 19,507-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Several miles of roads and ways, and 7 stock tanks, dispersed throughout the unit, visually dominate the landscape making the unit unnatural.

Although some opportunities for solitude exist in the hilly portion of the unit, the screening is not adequate to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The nature of the terrain provides very little incentive for enjoyment of primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Many respondents concurred with the BLM proposal. Several others disagreed with the proposal, but did not address wilderness criteria in specific terms except to say the unit contained outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

#### BLM Decision

Evaluation of the unit confirmed the unit's unnaturalness and its lack of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The 19,507-acre unit is dropped from further consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-81

#### Main Street

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Main Street Valley in Arizona, 25 miles south of St. George, Utah. The landscape consists of rolling plains and low-growing shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands.

#### BLM Proposal

The 10,163-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit is in an unnatural condition because of several miles of ways, a water diversion structure, and a reservoir that, cumulatively, are substantially noticeable.

The nature of the landscape provides little screening for solitude and little or no incentive for recreationists. As a result, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined type of recreation are not outstanding.

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All respondents agreed with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 10,163-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Unit No. 1-82

Hard Pond

Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, on the Uinkaret Plateau, 30 miles south of St. George, Utah. The terrain is mildly rugged with rolling hills and small mesas. Low shrubs and grasses are the only vegetation present.

The unit is bounded by roads and 2 sections of state lands.

BLM Proposal

The 12,133-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

The imprint of man is evident in the unit in the form of 14 miles of roads and ways, and 10 stock tanks dispersed through the interior. The cumulative effect of these imprints makes the unit unnatural.

The nature of the landscape prevents adequate screening for avoiding the sights, sounds and evidence of others in the unit.

Owing to the lack of natural features of interest, the opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding.

Summary of Public Comments

All respondents agreed with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

The 12,133-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 1-83

Hooter

Description of the Unit

This unit is in Arizona, 30 miles south of St. George, Utah. It is rolling in the east, slightly broken, and covered with grasses and shrubs. A few juniper are scattered throughout.

The boundaries are formed by roads and state land.

BLM Proposal

The 7,665-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

The unit is in a natural condition except for a road, some ways, and water developments.

The unit's relatively small size and overall lack of good topographic and vegetative screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Many commenters agreed with the BLM proposal. Several others disagreed with the proposal, but did not address the criteria in specific terms except to say it contained outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

#### BLM Decision

Commenters either did not address the criteria used to evaluate the unit or were not specific enough in their comments to cause a change in the BLM proposal. The 7,665-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-84

#### Hurricane Wash

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona in Hurricane Valley, 35 miles southeast of St. George, Utah. The terrain consists of flat to rolling terrain with shallow washes and weathered slopes. The vegetative cover is grasses and desert scrub.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands.

#### BLM Proposal

The 6,298-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further review.

Two roads across the interior divide the unit into three smaller sub-units, all of which are too small for wilderness consideration.

The lack of both topographic and vegetative screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The nature of the landscape of the area does not offer outstanding opportunities for engaging in primitive and unconfined types of recreation, either.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All commenters agreed with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 6,298-acre unit will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Unit No. 1-85

Round Pond

Description of the Unit

This unit is 20 miles north of the town of Mt. Trumbull. It is generally flat and covered with low shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and state lands.

BLM Proposal

The 5,120-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

There are several developments that have caused the unit to lose its primeval character. These include water developments and ways.

The long, narrow shape and lack of topographic and vegetation screening do not provide opportunities for solitude nor primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All commenters agreed with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

The 5,120-acre is dropped from further wilderness study.

Unit No. 1-86

Sink Hole

Description of the Unit

This unit is 14 miles north of the town of Mt. Trumbull. It is slightly broken with low shrubs and grasses providing cover.

The boundaries are formed by roads and a parcel of state land.

The unit is essentially natural except for one water development near the boundary.

BLM Proposal

The 6,530-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

The poor topographic and vegetative screening and the unit's size do not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Although several comments were received, none provided site-specific information concerning our application of wilderness criteria. Many commenters agreed with the BLM proposal while several others disagreed, saying that the unit contains outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude and primitive recreation.

### BLM Decision

Commenters either did not address the criteria used to evaluate the unit or were not specific enough in their comments to cause a change in the BLM proposal. The 6,530-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 1-87

### Mudhole

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Main Street Valley, 15 miles northwest of Mt. Trumbull town-site. It is characterized by mildly-rugged hills with some rolling, open terrain. Vegetation consists of low shrubs and grasses.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands.

### BLM Proposal

The 11,726-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. It contains several man-made imprints that degrade the unit's naturalness. Additionally, the unit's lack of topographic and vegetative screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All commenters agreed with the BLM proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 11,726-acre unit is dropped from the wilderness review.

### Unit No. 1-88

### Sullivan

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 12 miles northwest of the town of Mt. Trumbull. It is an area of medium relief occasionally broken by washes. The vegetation is principally low shrubs and grasses.



The unit is bounded by state lands and roads.

#### BLM Proposal

The 8,243-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

Man's imprints are substantially noticeable in the unit. These include water developments; a corral; and a road which bisects the unit, leaving two parts with less than 5,000 acres.

The topography and vegetation do not provide sufficient screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Additionally, the land ownership pattern creates several narrow fingers of public land which, according to BLM policy, were eliminated from further review. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with BLM's proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The 8,243-acre unit does not meet wilderness study criteria and is dropped from further review.

#### Unit No. 1-89

#### Rocky's

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Uinkaret Plateau, 12 miles northwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The landscape is characterized by rolling hills and washes with pinyon and juniper scattered throughout in varying densities. Areas of sagebrush are found with the pinyon and juniper.

#### BLM Proposal

The 6,451-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further review. Man's imprints are substantially noticeable, and roads crisscross the unit, dividing it into small parcels each less than 5,000 acres. The unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

All public comments received agreed with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

Because no comments caused a review of the BLM proposal, this 6,451-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 12 miles west of the town of Mt. Trumbull. The unit is characterized by a steep-sided but nearly level-topped mountain, with basalt ledges and rock slopes scattered throughout. The vegetation varies from sparse stands of pinyon and juniper trees, to pockets of dense pinyon and juniper, to sagebrush-covered openings.

BLM Proposal

The 11,699-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness study because it was determined to lack naturalness and the necessary outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received that stated the unit was natural and contained outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Other comments agreed with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

Reevaluation of the unit determined that if the 3,827 acres in an unnatural condition are dropped along the edge of roads found during the inventory, another 7,872 acres are left in a natural state. Although a state-owned section lies in the middle of the remainder, the unit was determined to provide outstanding opportunities for finding solitude in some of the dense pinyon and juniper pockets. These facts caused us to reverse our proposal. The 7,872 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

The unit is part of the Shivwits Plateau and is 8 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain in the unit consists mainly of Parashant Canyon with many smaller side canyons and gulches, and rolling, hilly portions of the plateau. The vegetation ranges from open sagebrush and burro-brush areas to medium-density stands of pinyon and juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads and 2 parcels of patented lands.

BLM Proposal

In the intensive inventory, we found that there were several roads and other significant imprints in the 38,938-acre unit. So, 10,797 acres were proposed to be dropped from the unit. The remaining 28,141 acres are



substantially natural and provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. That portion was proposed to be a wilderness study area.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal. Some stated the unit should not undergo further study while another doubted whether the route up the bottom of the canyon is a road. The commenter suggested that if it is a road, it should be "cherrystemmed."

#### BLM Decision

Comments opposing further study for the natural portion of the unit did not provide information that warrants dropping the unit from further review. The road in the bottom of the canyon has been confirmed. "Cherrystemming" that road would create an undesirable narrow finger extending outside the main body of the unit. Therefore, the 10,797 acres are dropped, the remaining 28,141 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 1-94

(No Name)

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 10 miles south of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain varies from flat to hilly, and the vegetative cover is primarily grasses and low shrubs with scattered juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads, patented land, and National Park Service land to the south.

#### BLM Proposal

The unit is not in a natural condition. The cumulative effect of many ways and a dirt airstrip dominate the landscape.

Because the topographic relief is low and the vegetative cover is inadequate, the ability to screen oneself from the sights, sounds, and evidence of others is poor. So, the unit doesn't offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The same lack of natural features makes opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation less than outstanding. Owing to this lack of wilderness character the 2,945-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters said that wilderness characteristics are present. There was general support for further study. A few commenters felt the unit lacked wilderness qualities. No comments provided specific information concerning the wilderness criteria.

## BLM Decision

The content of the comments caused us to reassess our proposal in the field. In our judgment, the unit does not meet wilderness criteria and all 2,945 acres are dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-95

(No Name)

## Description of the Unit

The unit is 10 miles south of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain consists mainly of the east slopes and cliffs of Parashant and Trail canyons, with generally flat areas in the east. The vegetation in the east consists of scattered juniper with grasses while the steep slopes in the west have a sparse covering of low shrubs and cacti.

The unit is bounded by roads, patented land, and National Park Service land.

## BLM Proposal

Most of the unit exists in a natural condition. Two roads divide the unit into three sub-units, two of which are too small for further consideration. The larger sub-unit, in the west, appears natural.

Because of open vistas, small size, and inadequate topographic and vegetative screening, the opportunities for solitude are not outstanding. Opportunities for several activities are present in the unit but they are not outstanding.

Since the unit lacked wilderness character, the 1,920-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many commenters said the unit should undergo further study because they felt the unit has wilderness character. A few others said the unit lacked the necessary wilderness characteristics for further review. No comments were site-specific in their mention of wilderness character.

## BLM Decision

Although no comments addressed the proposal in specific terms, we conducted further field investigations which affirmed that the unit does not contain the necessary wilderness criteria. The entire 1,920 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Unit No. 1-96A

Dansil Canyon

Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. It is characterized by sparse vegetative cover and a 200-foot-deep canyon.

The boundaries are created by a road and the boundary of Lake Mead National Recreation Area. These Park Service lands have been proposed for wilderness designation.

BLM Proposal

The unit is in a completely natural condition. Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in Dansil Canyon as it goes through the unit. Opportunities for sightseeing and photography exist, but neither they nor the opportunities for other types of activities are outstanding.

Since the wilderness criteria were met, the 294-acre unit was proposed as a wilderness study area.

Summary of Public Comments

There were many comments in agreement with the BLM proposal. Some commenters addressed wilderness criteria in general terms, and opposed the proposal.

BLM Decision

Those comments opposing the BLM proposal, while not specific in nature, prompted a reassessment of our proposal. We found that the criteria necessary for establishment of a wilderness study area are met in this unit. The 294-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 1-96B

Parashant Wash

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 15 miles west of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The landscape consists of gently-rolling hills with broad washes and a vegetative cover of open stands of pinyon and juniper with few pockets of denser stands.

The unit is bounded entirely by roads.

BLM Proposal

The unit is in an unnatural condition because of two miles of roads and 14 miles of ways that are dispersed through it. The cumulative effect of the roads and ways is that they are substantially noticeable throughout.

The smooth topography and the open vegetative pattern provide inadequate screening for an outstanding solitary experience. The lack of features in the unit makes it unattractive to those wanting to enjoy outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Since the basic wilderness criteria were not met, the 7,770-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

The few comments received agreed with our proposal that the unit lacked wilderness qualities.

#### BLM Decision

The 7,770-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-96C

#### Grassy Mountain

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 12 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. It is characterized by a variety of landscapes ranging from deep gullies to rolling uplands to mountain slopes. The vegetation varies from shrubs, pinyon and juniper, to scattered ponderosa pine at the highest elevations.

The unit is bounded by roads, state and patented lands and an area determined to be unnatural.

#### BLM Proposal

No significant imprints exist in the Grassy Mountain unit.

The rugged topography and dense pinyon and juniper woodland found within the boundaries of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Since it meets the wilderness criteria, BLM proposed the 5,503-acre unit as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were submitted that, according to their content, would more appropriately address unit 1-96D. Many comments favor further study for the units while others are opposed, some on the basis of mineral values. Most of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal.

#### BLM Decision

The proposal identified an area that is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Mineral values are addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review. The 5,503-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.



Description of the Unit

This unit is 12 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. It is characterized by a variety of landscapes ranging from canyons and deep gullies to rolling uplands and mountain slopes. The vegetation varies from ocotillo at its lower elevations, to shrubs, pinyon, juniper, and scattered ponderosa pine at the highest elevations.

The unit is bounded by roads, state and patented lands, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area lands proposed for wilderness designation.

BLM Proposal

Man has made many imprints on the unit. There are several water developments, corrals, mining scars, buildings, cleared fence lines, ways, and roads. These developments caused parts of the northern end of the unit to be dropped because of cumulative impacts or because areas of less than 5,000 acres were separated from the unit. The significant impacts were eliminated from further review.

The rugged topography and dense pinyon and juniper forests found within the new boundaries of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

BLM proposed that the natural portion of the unit undergo wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

The comments indicated that outstanding opportunities exist for primitive recreation and solitude, due to diverse vegetation and rugged terrain. Several comments also detailed the location of several imprints or commented on the mineral value of the unit. Many of the comments received for 1-96C were likely intended to be for this unit.

BLM Decision

Some comments listed imprints that were not significant and are not eliminated from the unit. Significant imprints have been eliminated, while unaffected areas having mineral potential can not be eliminated during this phase of the wilderness review. The remainder of the unit is natural and contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The natural portion of the unit, 48,248 acres, is established as a Wilderness Study Area, while 2,822 acres are dropped due to imprints.

Unit No. 1-97

North Dellenbaugh

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 20 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain consists of the basalt-capped Castle Peak with numerous washes and basalt outcroppings radiating from the summit. The vegetation is comprised of pinyon, juniper, ponderosa pine, manzanita, turbinella oak, and some cholla.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands.

BLM Proposal

Although there are imprints of man in the unit such as three miles of ways, a diversion dam, a corral and three miles of fence line scars, they are dispersed over the unit and do not detract from the naturalness of it. There are two imprints that caused us to drop 20 acres of the unit that are unnatural because of a chaining and a road.

The high relief and the dense vegetative cover combine to provide excellent screening, making opportunities for solitude outstanding. There are opportunities for several primitive and unconfined types of recreation but they are not outstanding.

We proposed that that portion of the unit that exists in a natural condition, (10,678 acres) be studied further, and that the small acreage that is unnatural, (20 acres) be dropped from further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Most of the comments agreed with the BLM proposal. Several others felt there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation in the unit and that it is unnatural.

BLM Decision

Prompted by comments mentioning the lack of wilderness character we reassessed our proposal and found that the high relief and dense vegetation provide outstanding solitude. The majority of the unit remains in a natural condition and will be studied further as a 10,678-acre Wilderness Study Area, with 20 acres being dropped from further consideration.

Unit No. 1-98

(No Name)

Description of the Unit

This unit is 21 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. Its vegetation includes a medium-density stand of ponderosa pine and scattered pinyon,



juniper, and some openings filled with shrubs. There is 100 feet of relief in the unit.

It is bounded on three sides by patented land and on the south by Lake Mead National Recreation Area lands that are identified as potential wilderness additions.

#### BLM Proposal

A way through the southeast corner of the unit is the only imprint left by man.

The lack of topographic and dense vegetative screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed the 640-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments questioned the proposed dropping of this unit, stating that it meets wilderness criteria of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and is contiguous to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Another comment was received which stated that the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria.

#### BLM Decision

Although the unit is contiguous to Lake Mead National Recreation Area, "Organic Act Directive, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook," state that these types of lands will be considered on their own merits initially. A field check confirmed the information in our proposal to drop the 640-acre unit from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 1-99

#### G & F

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 25 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain consists of a rounded knoll with basalt-covered slopes. The vegetative cover is comprised of high densities of pinyon and juniper, small groves of ponderosa pine, oak, and small areas of sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by patented land on three sides and National Park Service lands proposed for wilderness on the south.

### BLM Proposal

The unit is in a natural condition and contains no improvements or disturbances.

The combination of medium topography and dense vegetation provide excellent screening, making opportunities for solitude outstanding. Outstanding opportunities are present for sightseeing from a prominent basalt outcrop in the center of the unit.

BLM proposed that the entire 640-acre unit undergo further wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

All commenters agreed with the BLM proposal.

### BLM Decision

The 640-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 1-100

(No Name)

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 27 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. The relief includes a low ridge and shallow gulches. Its vegetation includes medium-density pinyon and juniper with scattered oak, ponderosa pine, and sagebrush in the openings.

It is bounded on three sides by patented land and on the south by Lake Mead National Recreation Area lands that are identified as potential wilderness.

### BLM Proposal

A way from the southeast corner to the center is man's only imprint. The combination of low relief and medium-density vegetative cover do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. BLM proposed that this 640-acre unit be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

One commenters agreed with our proposal, while another questioned the dropping of the unit based on a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

### BLM Decision

A reassessment of the proposal was conducted in which we determined that the unit does not meet the basic criteria for wilderness study based on the same



factors mentioned in the proposal. The 640-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 1-101

(No Name)

Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 25 miles southwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain ranges from flat to gently undulating on the east, to small gulches and hollows in the west. Vegetation includes high-density pinyon and juniper, oak, manzanita, sagebrush and several groupings of ponderosa pine.

The unit is bounded on three sides by patented land and on the south by National Park Service lands identified as potential wilderness.

BLM Proposal

The unit is in an unnatural condition because of the cumulative effect of a one-mile road, a large reservoir, part of a chained area, and a steel tank and troughs.

The screening provided by the combination of topography and vegetation is good but it is not adequate to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because there is nothing in the unit to attract recreationists interested in those types of recreation.

We proposed the entire 320-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

All commenters agreed with our proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness study.

BLM Decision

The 320-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 1-102

(No Name)

Description of the Unit

This unit is 28 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The topography consists of level to slightly-rolling terrain. The vegetation consists primarily of open stands of pinyon and juniper trees.

The boundaries are formed by patented lands on three sides and Lake Mead National Recreation Area lands that have been identified as potential wilderness.

#### BLM Proposal

Man's imprints found in the unit include a small chaining and a way. No other imprints exist. The open vegetation and low relief do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. We proposed that this 640-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

One comment was received supporting our proposal while another was received questioning the dropping of the unit based on a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

#### BLM Decision

A reevaluation of our proposal found that the unit does not meet wilderness criteria and the 640 acres are dropped from further study.

#### Unit No. 1-103

#### Burnt Canyon

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 25 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The landscape consists of low, rounded hills and open flats with a vegetative cover of medium to dense stands of pinyon and juniper, areas of ponderosa pine, sagebrush, and manzanita.

The unit is bounded by roads, chainings, and patented lands.

#### BLM Proposal

Most of the unit is in a natural condition, with all of man's imprints around the perimeter of the unit. Imprints such as roads, a mining prospect area, ways, and several large reservoirs are substantially noticeable in isolated portions of the unit.

The combination of topographic and vegetative screening doesn't provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation aren't outstanding because the landscape provides little incentive or attraction for recreationists.

We proposed that the 6,400-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.



### Summary of Public Comments

Many commenters felt the unit should be established as a wilderness study area due to outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Others felt it clearly lacked the necessary wilderness character for establishing a wilderness study area.

### BLM Decision

An on-the-ground reassessment of our proposal showed that the unit does not meet the wilderness criteria for solitude and primitive recreation due to the nature of the topography and vegetation. As a result, all 6,400 acres of this unit are dropped from further consideration.

### Unit No. 1-104A

### Salt House

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 25 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite, on the western edge of the Shivwits Plateau. The unit's terrain is rolling and hilly. The vegetative cover ranges from blackbrush and low-growing shrubs, to heavy densities of pinyon and juniper at the higher elevations.

The unit is bounded by roads.

### BLM Proposal

The unit contains 13 miles of ways and four reservoirs that are widely dispersed throughout the interior. These imprints are not substantially noticeable because of the nature of landscape.

The opportunities for solitude are outstanding because of the varied and colorful terrain and the dense vegetation found over much of the unit. The opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation are not outstanding because the landscape provides little incentive or attraction for recreationists.

We proposed the 13,465-acre unit undergo further wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of a wilderness study area. These people said that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some felt the unit was unnatural and did not possess wilderness qualities.

### BLM Decision

The comments received disagreeing with our proposal prompted a reassessment of the unit. The improvements brought to our attention by commenters do not

detract from the natural appearance of the unit. The 13,465-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 1-104B

Mustang Point

Description of the Unit

The unit is 25 miles southwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite, on the western edge of the Shivwits Plateau. The unit's terrain varies from rolling and hilly in the east to high cliffs, steep slopes, and deep canyons in the west. The vegetative cover ranges from blackbrush and low-growing shrubs, to heavier densities of pinyon and juniper at the higher elevations. The unit is bounded by roads and a section of state land.

BLM Proposal

There are imprints of man such as four miles of roads, several miles of ways, steel water tanks, reservoirs, and a building near the edge of the unit. All imprints except the reservoirs and ways were deleted since they are substantially noticeable. The natural portion of the unit contains a rugged and varied landscape that, when combined with the vegetation, provides excellent screening making opportunities for solitude outstanding. Those same qualities provide the recreationist with several outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The 27,250-acre unit was proposed for further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

The majority of commenters supported the establishment of a wilderness study area. These respondents stated that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some commenters felt the unit was unnatural and did not possess wilderness qualities.

BLM Decision

Because several comments were received that disagreed with our proposal, the wilderness character of the unit was reassessed. We found during a field investigation, that the unit exists in a natural condition despite the ways and reservoirs present. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are also present based on the nature of the landscape and the size of the unit. The 27,250-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.



Description of the Unit

The unit is 18 miles west of Mt. Trumbull townsite. It contains broken topography with canyons and ridges covered with a medium stand of pinyon and juniper.

BLM Proposal

All 19,950 acres were found to lack naturalness due to numerous roads and ways crossing the unit. We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments provided specific information relative to wilderness criteria. Those that did stated that the unit is natural and contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Most commenters indicated general support for the unit as a wilderness study area. Some were opposed to further study.

BLM Decision

No public comments provided any new information that changed our proposal. The 19,950-acre unit is dropped from further review, since the unit's naturalness is adversely affected by roads and ways crossing it.

Description of the Unit

The unit is 22 miles west of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. It contains a portion of the 1,800-foot-high Upper Grand Wash CLiffs, several canyons, and broken topography. Vegetation varies from nearly barren areas to dense stands of pinyon and juniper. The bundaries are formed by roads and state land.

BLM Proposal

Although some of man's imprints are locally significant, the unit has generally retained its primeval character. An area on the western boundary has a concentration of water developments, roads, and ways that cumulatively are significant. A "cherrystem" road extends into the unit from the north. The disturbance left by a buried pipeline along the southern boundary road has separated a small, narrow parcel from the unit. Other developments include other water developments, corrals, several miles of ways, and a line shack.

The large size and topographic and vegetative screening combine to provide overall outstanding opportunities for solitude. The variety of landscape character provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed that the 38,050-acre portion of the unit retaining its natural character undergo wilderness study. We also proposed dropping 410 acres.

#### Summary of Public Comments

The majority of the commenters agreed with the BLM proposal. However, there were several commenters that questioned the BLM proposal, saying the unit lacks wilderness character.

#### BLM Decision

Since several comments questioned the BLM proposal on the grounds the unit lacked wilderness character, the unit was reassessed. During the reassessment we determined that what had been called a "way" out to Hudson Point, is in fact a road creating a "cherrystem" into the unit, approximately 1-1/2 miles long. The public comments provided no other new information that would cause any other changes in the unit. Therefore, the 38,050-acre unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 1-116

#### Nutter

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 21 miles northwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. It contains a 1400-foot-high escarpment, several gulches, small canyons, and broken topography. The vegetation varies from low shrubs and scattered pinyon and juniper to more dense stands of pinyon and juniper.

The boundaries are formed by roads and state land.

#### BLM Proposal

All 6,835 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study due to the cumulative affect on naturalness of a chaining, water developments, and roads and ways, reducing its size. According to BLM policy, a narrow finger of public land extending beyond the main body of the unit is dropped. The total acreage for the unit is less than 5,000 acres.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several general comments disagreed with BLM's assessment of wilderness character in the unit. Some comments supported the BLM proposal but were also general in nature. One comment provided specific information pertaining to roads, naturalness, and solitude.



### BLM Decision

In our judgment, the 6,835-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and is therefore dropped from further study. No substantive comments were received to cause us to change our proposal.

Unit No. 1-117

Englestead

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 18 miles northwest of the Mt. Trumbull townsite. The topography consists of rolling hills and shallow washes. Vegetation includes grasses, desert scrub, and open stands of pinyon and juniper.

### BLM Proposal

All 5,350 acres were found to lack naturalness due to the cumulative effects of a road and ways and livestock developments. We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

All public comments received agreed with the BLM proposal.

### BLM Decision

Since no comments questioned the BLM proposal, this 5,350-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 1-118

Shoe Buckle

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Shivwits Plateau, 20 miles northwest of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The landscape is characterized by broken terrain and a medium density of pinyon and juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads and a section of state land.

### BLM Proposal

The 11,955-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study. The unit is unnatural because of cumulative effects on naturalness. Also, many roads divide the unit into areas smaller than 5,000 acres.

Other factors affecting the proposal were poor solitude resulting from the lack of topographic and vegetative screening in the unit. The lack of natural features also makes the unit unattractive to recreationists wanting to enjoy primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

The public comments received agreed with BLM's proposal.

### BLM Decision

Since no public comment prompted further investigation of wilderness character, the 11,955-acre unit is dropped from further review.

### Unit No. 1-125

### Hobble Pond

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, on the Shivwits Plateau, 30 miles south of St. George, Utah. The landscape consists of rolling hills dissected by washes, with low shrubs and scattered junipers.

### BLM Proposal

The cumulative effect of 25 miles of roads and ways, five stock tanks, and 600 acres of chaining makes the unit unnatural.

The combination of topographic and vegetative screening is not adequate for providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The featureless terrain offers little attraction to recreationists seeking primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

We proposed the entire 17,126-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments received agreed with the BLM proposal.

### BLM Decision

The entire 17,126-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 1-131

### Wolf Hole

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, 25 miles south of St. George, Utah. The topography consists of rolling and broken hills, flats, and washes. Vegetation consists of sagebrush and varying densities of pinyon and juniper.



## BLM Proposal

The 12,251-acre unit was found to lack naturalness due to chainings, the presence of roads and ways, and firewood cutting. The absence of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation also contributed to the proposal that the unit be dropped from further wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, most of them recommending more study. Several comments addressed the possibility that the chainings and firewood cutting areas will revegetate or that the unnatural areas could be eliminated from the unit.

## BLM Decision

Public comments caused us to reevaluate the unit. If the unnatural area was eliminated, the remaining part does not have the qualities to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. This 12,251-acre unit is dropped from further wilderness study.

## Unit No. 1-132

## Purgatory

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, 18 miles south of St. George, Utah. Its topography varies from gently rolling to broken, and includes several miles of cliff line. The vegetation varies in density and includes low shrubs, cacti, and grasses at the lower elevations and dense stands of pinyon and juniper and some ponderosa pine higher up.

The unit is bounded by roads and state and patented lands. The Turbinella-Gambel Oak Natural Area is on its southern end.

## BLM Proposal

Within the 21,187-acre unit are disturbances such as water developments, a building, chainings, mining scars, several miles of ways, and several miles of roads. The roads separate several parcels of less than 5,000 acres from the remainder of the unit along the east boundary. The remainder is in a natural condition and includes more than 5,000 acres.

The unit does contain outstanding opportunities for solitude with its broken topography and dense vegetation. One of the larger deer herds on the Arizona Strip lives in the unit and so there's outstanding hunting.

That portion of the unit meeting the wilderness criteria (7,557 acres) was proposed for further wilderness study. Another 13,630 acres were proposed to drop from further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters felt the broken topography and dense vegetation provided outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. Others felt the unit lacked naturalness.

## BLM Decision

The comments addressing the naturalness of the unit provided no new information as all portions of the unit existing in an unnatural condition were proposed to be dropped. The comments pertaining to solitude and primitive recreation support the BLM proposal. Therefore, a total of 7,557 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area, and 13,630 acres are dropped from further study.

## Unit No. 1-133

## Mokaac Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in Arizona, 14 miles south of St. George, Utah. It is characterized by topography that varies from smooth slopes to fairly steep and broken hillsides. Vegetation varies from desert shrubs to open stands of pinyon and juniper.

## BLM Proposal

The 32,246-unit was determined to lack naturalness due to water developments, a powerline, mining scars, chainings, ways and roads. As a result, the entire unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, most recommending further study. Several comments suggested that the boundary be drawn around the unnatural areas and the road on the north end of Mokaac Mountain.

## BLM Decision

Our reevaluation of the unit found that drawing the boundary around the mine-related imprints, the road on Mokaac Mountain, and other unnatural areas, results in two very narrow natural corridors. The combination of the unit's poor configuration and marginal screening mean these corridors do not meet the wilderness criteria of providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. Since the criteria are not met, the entire 32,246-acre unit is dropped from further study.



Description of the Unit

The unit is on the west slope of the Uinkaret mountains, 12 miles southeast of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain is comprised of cinder cones, lava slopes, and hills, open flats, escarpments, and alluvial drainages. The vegetative cover includes grasses, cacti, sagebrush, pinyon, and juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads, patented lands, and National Park Service lands being considered for wilderness.

BLM Proposal

Most of the 8,320 acres of this unit are in a natural condition. Imprints of man such as roads, reservoirs, a wildlife catchment, a pipeline, a way, and a large old chaining are substantially noticeable.

The opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation are outstanding because of the variety of topography and vegetation and the scenic nature of the unit in the east.

We proposed that the 6,480-acre portion of the unit in a natural condition undergo further wilderness study and the 1,840-acres of unnatural lands be dropped from further study.

Summary of Public Comments

Most comments were in support of further study for the unit. A few commenters felt the portion of the unit that is proposed for further study did not fit the definition of wilderness. Some commenters questioned the validity of the boundary between unit 1-136 and 1-137 saying the boundary was not a road.

BLM Decision

Comments prompted a reassessment of the boundary between unit 1-136 and unit 1-137. A field check determined that the boundary does meet the definition of a road.

The 6,480-acre portion of the unit that is in a natural condition is established as a Wilderness Study Area, while the remaining 1,840 acres are dropped from further consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Uinkaret Mountains, 12 miles southeast of Mt. Trumbull townsite. The terrain consists of two cinder cones with steep slopes and an

area of flats to the east. The vegetative cover includes oak, manzanita, ponderosa pine, pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush.

The unit is bounded by roads, state land, and National Park Service lands being considered for wilderness.

### BLM Proposal

All 1,408 acres of the unit were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Most of the unit is natural except for several miles of wide clearing for a fence line. These fence lines are very noticeable and dominate the landscape. They are permanent improvements that effectively eliminate most of the unit by making two small sub-units that are separated from the Park Service lands. There is one remaining sub-unit in the east that is contiguous to the park and exists in a natural condition. It does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation due to the small size, smooth terrain, open vegetation pattern, and the lack of features that would attract recreationists.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of a wilderness study area because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, and they feel the unit meets wilderness criteria. Some commenters felt that the boundary between unit 1-137 and unit 1-136 is not a road and therefore the two units should be combined. Comments which stated that the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria were also received.

### BLM Decision

Comments prompted a reassessment of the boundary between unit 1-137 and unit 1-136. A field check determined that the boundary does meet the definition of a road. Although the unit is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park it was determined that it does not meet wilderness criteria on its own. The 1,408-acre unit is dropped from further consideration.

### Unit No. 1-138

(No Name)

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 48 miles south of Colorado City. Its topography includes a broad, open cliff face and alluvial slope. The vegetation consists of desert shrubs and a few scattered junipers.

The unit boundary is formed by patented, state, and Grand Canyon National Park lands. The park lands have been proposed for wilderness designation.



## BLM Proposal

Although the 614-acre unit is in a natural condition, it is proposed to be dropped from further review because the lack of topographic and vegetative screening does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The generally featureless terrain does not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

Most of the commenters indicated general support for further study, but very few provided specific information addressing the wilderness criteria. Those that were specific said that the unit is natural and contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

## BLM Decision

Comments addressing the wilderness criteria prompted further field investigation and reassessment. Review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive OAD-78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct BLM to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits.

Although the unit is natural, the screening provided by the limited vegetation and existing topography does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of features mean there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. As a result, the 614-acre unit does not meet the wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-139

(No Name)

## Description of the Unit

The unit is 45 miles south of Colorado City. The topography consists of smooth alluvial and an open cliff face. Vegetation is principally low desert scrub.

The boundaries are formed by patented land and Grand Canyon National Park lands proposed for wilderness designation.

## BLM Proposal

Although ways are man's only imprints in the unit, the openness of the unit precludes any opportunities to obtain solitude or participate in primitive and unconfined types of recreation. As a result, the 1,485-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Most of the commenters said that the unit has outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation, but very few comments provided specific information addressing the wilderness criteria. Those that were specific stated that the unit is natural and contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

## BLM Decision

The several commenters addressing the wilderness criteria prompted us to investigate further in the field and reassess our proposal. Review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits. The unit was found to exist in a natural condition but the lack of vegetative screening and the existing topography do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Also, the lack of features means there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The result is that the 1,485-acre unit does not meet the wilderness criteria and is dropped from further study.

## Unit No. 1-140

(No Name)

## Description of the Unit

The unit is 40 miles south of Colorado City. The vegetation includes desert scrub and a few open stands of pinyon and juniper. The topography consist of level to gently-rolling terrain and Hancock Knoll.

The boundary is formed by roads and Grand Canyon National Park lands that have been proposed for wilderness.

## BLM Proposal

A chaining is located in the east end and extends into the park. This and a way are the principal imprints left by man.

Because the low topographic variation and the poor vegetative screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation, the 1,446-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of this unit as a wilderness study area because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park. Commenters also feel the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Other comments which said that the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria, were also received.



## BLM Decision

Since several of the comments addressed wilderness criteria, we made a field investigation and reassessment of our proposal. Review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits. The combination of the nature the topography and the vegetative patterns in the unit create a setting in which opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are present but not outstanding. The result is that the 1,446-acre unit is dropped from further consideration.

Unit No. 1-141

(No Name)

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 40 miles south of Colorado City. Its topography consists of flat to rolling terrain. Overall vertical relief is 100 feet. Most of the unit is covered with desert scrub with some open stands of pinyon and juniper.

The unit is bounded by roads and Grand Canyon National Park lands that are proposed for wilderness.

### BLM Proposal

Man's imprints include a way and chaining that extends into the park. The rest of the unit has remained in a natural condition. Since the topographic and vegetative screening do not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation, the 179-acre unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of a wilderness study area for this unit because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park. They also feel it meets the wilderness criteria. Comments were also received that stated the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria.

## BLM Decision

Because several of the comments addressed wilderness criteria, we made a field investigation and reassessment of the unit. Although the unit is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merit. While much of the unit exists in a natural condition, the lack of screening by the low relief and the limited vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities

for solitude. The lack of any features within the unit attractive to recreationists means there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The 179-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and, therefore, is dropped from further study.

Unit No. 1-143

(No Name)

Description of the Unit

The unit is 40 miles south of Colorado City. Its topography is generally flat to gently rolling with 250 feet relief overall. Desert scrub and open pinyon and juniper stands make up most of the vegetation.

The boundary is formed by roads, an area determined unnatural during initial inventory, and Grand Canyon National Park lands proposed for wilderness designation.

BLM Proposal

The southern half of the unit has been chained, reducing its area of naturalness. There are also water developments and ways in it. These imprints have left the unit in an unnatural condition.

The chaining separates the unit from park lands, leaving it too small for further consideration. Since no opportunities exist for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation, all 2,397 acres in the unit were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of this unit as a wilderness study area because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, and they feel the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Comments which stated that the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria were also received.

BLM Decision

Because several of the comments addressed wilderness criteria, we made a field investigation and reassessment of the unit. Although the unit is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits. While much of the unit exists in a natural condition, the lack of screening by the low relief and the limited vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of any features within the unit attractive to recreationists means there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The 2,397-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and, therefore, is dropped from further study.



Description of the Unit

The unit is 42 miles southeast of Colorado City. The topography consists of flat to rolling terrain covered with desert scrub and scattered groves of juniper.

The boundary is formed by roads, an area found to be unnatural during the initial inventory, and Grand Canyon National Park lands proposed for wilderness.

BLM Proposal

The unit is in an overall natural condition. Man's only imprints are a reservoir and a few miles of ways.

Since the narrow unit has open terrain with vegetation that does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation, all 2,312 acres were proposed dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Most commenters supported the establishment of this unit as a wilderness study area for this unit because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, and they feel the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Comments were also received that said the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria.

BLM Decision

Because several of the comments addressed wilderness criteria, we made a field investigation and reassessment of the unit. Although the unit is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits. While much of the unit exists in a natural condition, the lack of screening by the low relief and the limited vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of any features within the unit attractive to recreationists means there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The 2,312-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and, therefore, is dropped from further study.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 40 miles southeast of Colorado City. Its topography is flat to gently rolling and is covered with desert scrub and scattered groves of pinyon and juniper trees.

The boundaries are formed by roads and Grand Canyon National Park lands proposed for wilderness designation.

BLM Proposal

Man's imprints in the area include several miles of ways and a reservoir. These do not substantially degrade naturalness of most of the unit.

Because of the lack of relief and vegetative screening throughout the unit, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation do not exist. As a result, all 4,075 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Most respondents supported the establishment of this unit as a wilderness study area because it is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, and they feel the unit meets the wilderness criteria. Comments which stated that the unit is unnatural and does not meet the wilderness criteria were also received.

BLM Decision

Because several of the comments addressed wilderness criteria, we made a field investigation and reassessment of the unit. Although the unit is contiguous to Grand Canyon National Park, review of the unit considered application of the direction given us in "Organic Act Directive 78-61, Change 3" and the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook." Both direct us to study each unit contiguous to proposed wilderness on its own merits. While much of the unit exists in a natural condition, the lack of screening by the low relief and the limited vegetation does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The lack of any features within the unit attractive to recreationists means there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The 4,075-acre unit does not meet wilderness criteria and, therefore, is dropped from further study.



## PHOENIX DISTRICT

Unit No. 2-1A

Mt. Wilson

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 55 miles northwest of Kingman. A nine-mile portion of the Black Mountains, which includes Wilson Ridge, is encompassed by the unit. Vegetation is typical of a creosote-bursage community. The unit is bounded on the southeast by a transmission line and on all other sides by the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The National Park Service's proposed Kingman Wash Wilderness is contiguous to the unit along its northern and western boundaries.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is natural, offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, and is adjacent to the National Park Services' Kingman Wash Wilderness proposal. All 24,821 acres were proposed for study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. All supported the proposal for further study. One comment emphasized the heightened value of the combined acreage of the adjacent Park Service Wilderness proposal and a BLM study area.

### BLM Decision

No public comments, generally or specifically, questioned the previous BLM proposal. Therefore, Mt. Wilson is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 2-1B

Mt. Wilson Plain

### Description of the Unit

Mt. Wilson Plain is 20 miles southwest of Boulder Dam. It is characterized by a bajada and a desert plain. Creosote and catclaw are the primary vegetative covers.

Originally the unit was part of Unit 2-1, but was separated from the remainder of that unit by a powerline and access road along the northwest side. Elsewhere the unit is bounded by the Temple Bar Road, Highway 93, and private land.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 11,382 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

One general comment stated the unit "should be wilderness."

### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal. Mt. Wilson Plain is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-2

### Squaw Peak

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 8 miles west of Willow Beach (Lake Mead National Recreation Area). A portion of the White Hills trend north to south in the unit with a large outwash plain on both sides of the range. Vegetative cover is primarily Mohave desert scrub, creosote, and bursage, and is generally sparse. The unit is bounded by Lake Mead National Recreation Area and by roads.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the limited vegetative screening and poor topographic complexity provide less than outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 20,525 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

One general comment stated the unit "should be wilderness."

### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal. Therefore, Squaw Peak is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-3

### Trail Rapids Hills

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 50 miles north of Kingman. It is bounded by the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (proposed wilderness area #9), private land, and roads.



Unit 2-3 is the northernmost portion of the White Hills and is comprised primarily of low, rounded volcanic features above an outwash plain. Vegetation is Mohave desert scrub with a sparse creosote and bursage community. Joshua trees, Mohave yucca, and some yucca baccata are found throughout the unit in small quantities. Small amounts of catclaw are found along the drainages.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, is not a significant continuation of the National Park Service wilderness proposal, and does not materially contribute to it. All 10,430 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

One general comment stated the unit "should be wilderness."

#### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal. Trail Rapids Hills are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 2-4/5

#### South Detrital Valley

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in Mohave County, 45 miles northwest of Kingman, and consists of a sparsely vegetated creosote flat. It is bounded by the 345 kV Mead-Liberty powerline, roads, and private land.

During the field inventory we determined that the road that was thought to separate unit 2-4 (Central Detrital Valley) and unit 2-5 (South Detrital Valley) is not a road. Therefore these two units were combined to form one unit.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness review because it does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 13,920 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

One general comment stated the unit "should be wilderness."

### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal. South Detrital Valley is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-6

### Pope Mine

### Description of the Unit

The unit is adjacent to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 18 miles southeast of Hoover Dam. The topography is characterized by a series of gently-rolling hills. Vegetative cover is sparse and dominated by creosote, bursage, and Mohave yucca. Although the unit is less than 5,000 acres, it is adjacent to a National Park Service wilderness proposal. The Lake Mead National Recreation Area forms the western boundary while the remaining sides are bounded by roads.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that this area be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not meet the size criterion, fails to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, even when considered as a natural continuation of the adjacent National Park Service wilderness proposal. All 1,100 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

One general comment stated the unit "should be wilderness."

### BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the BLM proposal. Pope Mine is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-7

### Van Deeman

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 20 miles southeast of Hoover Dam and is contiguous to a National Park Service wilderness proposal. It is bisected by the Black Mountains which run from north to south. The east scarp of the mountains is a gently-sloping bajada, while the west slope is steep and cut by a number of washes. Vegetation within the unit consists of Mohave desert scrub. The unit is bounded by roads and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study. However, because of the unit's small size, these opportunities are outstanding only if considered along with the contiguous National Park Service wilderness proposal. A total of 1,650 acres were proposed to be dropped, while 1,550 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. All supported the BLM proposal, except one, which protested any part of the unit being studied further because of mining claims. That is generally a consideration undertaken during the wilderness study phase. A decision on this protest will be made by February 15, 1981.

## BLM Decision

No comments, generally or specifically, questioned whether the previous BLM proposal met the wilderness criteria. Therefore, that part of Van Deeman proposed for further review is established as a Wilderness Study Area, and the remainder is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-8

## Mockingbird

## Description of the Unit

This unit is adjacent to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 25 miles southeast of Hoover Dam. The Black Mountains run from north to south through the unit. The east slope of the Blacks within the inventory unit is gently-sloping bajada, however the major portion is along the west slope and is composed of rolling hills cut by numerous washes. Vegetation is sparse Mohave scrub.

The unit is bounded by the Four Corners-El Dorado 500 kV power transmission line, roads, private and state land, and the National Recreation Area to the west.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit undergo wilderness study because it contains outstanding opportunities when considered with the contiguous National Park Service wilderness proposal. All 5,700 acres were proposed for further wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Only two people made several comments supporting the unit for further wilderness study.

## BLM Decision

No comments, generally or specifically, questioned the BLM proposal. Therefore, Mockingbird is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 2-9

### Black Mountains North

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 25 miles northwest of Kingman. The topography is characterized by rugged peaks, ridges, and volcanic plugs and dikes. Vegetation in the unit is characteristic of the Upper Sonoran grassland with juniper, yucca, catclaw, bursage and creosote being predominant. The unit is bounded by roads and by the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit undergo wilderness study because the numerous deep canyons, deeply-cut washes and low, rolling hills provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Only 2 acres were proposed to be dropped and the remaining 20,398 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Only two people commented. One agreed with the BLM proposal. The other comment suggested that the Portland Mine boundary road impaired the wilderness values and would require a boundary adjustment.

## BLM Decision

The Portland Mine and access road are outside of the unit. Additional boundary adjustments are an appropriate part of the study phase. No other comments questioned the wilderness criteria. Therefore, Black Mountains North is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 2-10

### Burns Spring

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 6 miles north of Highway 68 and is adjacent to the eastern edge of the southern portion of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The unit is also bounded by a combination of roads, and private and state lands. The topography of the unit is very complex and includes a portion of the Black Mountains. Numerous peaks, washes, and canyons characterize the area. Vegetation cover is typical of the Upper Sonoran juniper grassland.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit undergo wilderness study because the diverse topography within the rugged and highly dissected mountains, the deep washes, and the remote location provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 39 acres were proposed to drop and the remaining 29,961 acres were proposed for further wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. One commenter felt that wilderness values were impaired by the boundary road between units 2-09, 2-10 and the lack of vegetative screening on the west side of the unit and suggested that the unit boundaries be modified.

## BLM Decision

No comment specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal with the exception of the above-mentioned comment which consideration is more appropriate to the study phase. Therefore, Burns Spring is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-12/42

## Mount Tipton

## Description of the Unit

The unit is in the central portion of the Cerbat Mountains, 3 miles north of Chloride. A rugged nine-mile portion of these mountains are in the unit. Pinyon pine, shrub oak, and desert ceanothus are the predominate vegetative covers.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because the diverse, rugged topography, interesting features, and excellent vegetative screening, provide visitors with outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 3,010 acres were proposed to be dropped and 19,550 acres were proposed for further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received and the majority supported wilderness designation for the unit.

## BLM Decision

As none of the comments disagreed with the specific criteria for wilderness, Mount Tipton is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

The unit is 60 miles north of Kingman and is contiguous to the National Park Service's wilderness proposal #22. The unit is also bounded by private land. The terrain is characterized by numerous east-west running drainages except for a small portion of the Grand Wash Cliffs. Sparse vegetative cover is provided by yucca, blackbrush, Mormon tea, ocotillo, and haplopappus.

BLM Proposal

Since the unit is adjacent to a National Park Service wilderness proposal and is also a natural extension of a significant natural feature, the Grand Wash Cliffs, we proposed the entire unit undergo wilderness study. All 2,200 acres were proposed for further study.

Summary of Public Comments

Two comments were received, both supporting wilderness designation for the unit.

BLM Decision

As neither comment questioned the previous BLM proposal, Grapevine Wash is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

The unit is in Mohave county, 40 miles north of Kingman. The topography of the unit is dominated by the immense south-facing cliff that crosses the unit, east to northwest. The remainder of the unit consists of hills, a desert bajada and a plain. Creosote dominates the vegetation in the lower elevation while pinyon pine, juniper, and holly-grape are found in areas above the cliffs.

The boundary of the unit is formed by a 500 kV powerline to the south, the Lincoln Ranch Road, the Hualapai Indian Reservation, and state and private lands.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because of the outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. A total of 570 acres were proposed to be dropped and the remaining 12,176 acres were proposed for further study.



## Summary of Public Comments

Two comments were received, both supporting wilderness designation for the unit.

## BLM Decision

As neither comment questioned the previous BLM proposal, Grand Wash Cliffs is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-17

## Music Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 30 miles northwest of Kingman, along the southern end of the Grand Wash Cliffs. A 14-mile portion of the Music Mountains trend north to south. Because the western boundary of the unit follows a checkerboard ownership pattern, only isolated segments of the Grand Wash Cliffs are within the unit. Juniper trees dominate the vegetation throughout the unit except for a chaparral community in the north, and some pinyon pine in the south. The unit is bounded by a 500 kV powerline, the West Water Canyon Road, private and state land, the Hualapai Indian Reservation, roads, and vehicle ways.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness review because opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are poor in the unit due to its narrow shape and the scattering of man-made impacts throughout. All 32,800 acres were proposed to drop from further consideration.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few public comments were received on this unit. All comments indicated disagreement with the BLM proposal. Two comments were general statements. One comment was detailed, addressing the outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude. Additionally, the comment addressed the Intensive Inventory Narrative Report and the apparent use of configuration as a justification for not recommending this unit for wilderness study. The commenter stated that strange boundary shapes or configurations are a consideration of the study phase, not the inventory.

## BLM Decision

The units configuration as it relates to manageability is indeed a consideration of the study phase. Upon review of the Inventory Report it was determined that consideration of configuration was used in a valid context as it related to opportunities for solitude and recreation not management. The configuration limits one's opportunities to effectively avoid the sights and sounds of others in the unit, and the unit's configuration excludes important portions of the Grand Wash Cliffs, limiting the recreationalist to a narrow "shelf." There is no unconfined recreation possible. Therefore, opportunities for recreation and solitude are not considered outstanding.

Based on the public comments and review of the Inventory Report, the Music Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-21

### Mount Davis

#### Description of the Unit

This unit consists of four separate, one-section parcels in northwest Arizona, 20 miles north of Davis Dam. Although less than 5,000 acres, this unit is contiguous with a Lake Mead National Recreation Area wilderness proposal. Elsewhere, it is bounded by private land.

These sections contain portions of the outwash plain which drain the west slope of the Black Mountains. Major washes drain directly into the nearby Colorado River.

Small, rugged volcanic hills are in parcels A, B, and D. Parcel D also contains much of the western slope of 2,034-foot Mount Davis. These hills have been heavily eroded into small peaks, buttes, and ridges, with several small, but steep-walled canyons and gorges. Parcel C is nearly all outwash plain cut by several deep, narrow arroyos.

Vegetation within the unit consists of a very sparse creosote and bursage, along with white burrobush, ephedra, wolfberry, snakeweed, and buckwheat. Catclaw, acacia and some mesquite grow along the wash.

## BLM Proposal

We originally proposed that this unit undergo wilderness study because it is a natural continuation of the National Park Service wilderness proposal and materially contributes to that proposal. BLM staff recommendations proposed studying this unit further. After our report of May 1980 was sent to the printer, the BLM State Director reversed the staff recommendation, and the unit was proposed to be dropped from further consideration. The State Director felt the full-length staff report did not adequately support the recommendation to study the unit further.



## Summary of Public Comments

Many public comments were received concerning this unit. All the comments indicated disagreement with the proposal to drop the unit from further study. The commenters feel the four separate parcels are a logical extension and natural continuation of the Lake Mead Recreational Area wilderness proposal, and that each parcel contributes to the adjacent wilderness proposal. Several commenters went on to state that outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude are available in conjunction with those opportunities available in the Lake Mead proposed wilderness. A few comments suggested the 4 parcels on their own had outstanding opportunities available for solitude.

## BLM Decision

Based on public comments received, and their strong support for further wilderness study of Mount Davis, the four-segmented unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-23

## Pinnacles

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in northwestern Mohave County, 18 miles west of Kingman. The bulk of this unit is a juniper- and grass-covered mesa except for a sharp ridge of volcanic pinnacles and canyons south and west of the mesa. Vegetation is Mohave desert scrub in the lowlands with a transition to an Upper Sonoran juniper grassland on the mesa top. Roads and private land form the unit boundaries.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness review because the unit's small natural area and the many unavoidable imprints of man limit and confine one's ability to experience solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. All 10,460 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

One general comment was received on this unit recommending it for wilderness designation.

## BLM Decision

The previous BLM proposal has not been specifically questioned. The Pinnacles are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in west-central Mohave County, 15 miles west of Kingman and 9 miles east of Bullhead City. An eight-mile portion of the Black Mountains trend north to south through the unit. The landscape features a variety of mesas and buttes. Vegetation varies from a Mohave desert scrub in the lower elevations to an Upper Sonoran juniper grassland in the higher elevations. Riparian plants are found around springs. The unit is bounded by a combination of state and private land, by a 500 kV powerline and access road, a pipeline and access road, and portions of vehicle ways.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit which retains its essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study. We felt there are outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in the unit because of its size and shape, its rapid elevation changes, and its diverse, rugged topography. A total of 7,345 acres were proposed to be dropped and the remaining 26,300 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Numerous comments were received regarding this unit. Many comments agreed with the BLM proposal, a few comments disagreed.

Several of the supportive commenters supplied very specific information relating to the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude they felt existed in this unit. A few went on to say that Mount Nutt is one of the finest examples of desert wilderness in the Kingman area.

Two specific comments questioned the unit's boundary as explained in the Intensive Inventory Report. They questioned a boundary which was determined by a combination of imprints and an unusual configuration due to parcels of state and private lands. The commenters pointed out that configuration considerations are more appropriately dealt with in the study phase. It was also pointed out that the northern parcel, which we excluded from the unit due to its configuration, contributed significantly to the wilderness values of Mount Nutt.

Of the few comments that disagreed with the BLM proposal, all were general statements concerning subsurface mineral ownership, mineral potentials, and utility corridors.

BLM Decision

A field check and a review of the Intensive Inventory Report determined the stated concerns were valid. The locating of the northwest boundary to alleviate a "gooseneck" configuration is inappropriate at this time. Extending the unit to its limits of naturalness incorporates 2,900 acres north of Secret Pass. This parcel contains lands of exceptional wilderness values and substantially supplements the quality of the unit.



The questioning of mineral potential, subsurface mineral rights, and the planning for utility corridors are appropriately considered in the study phase.

As no public comments questioned the wilderness characteristics of this unit, Mount Nutt is established as a Wilderness Study Area of 29,200 acres, including the added 2,900 acres to the northwest corner of the unit.

Unit No. 2-28/29

Warm Springs

Description of the Unit

This unit is 20 miles southwest of Kingman. It is characterized by a large mesa and a rugged chain of mountains. Vegetation is diverse throughout the unit and includes yucca, blackbrush, chollas, and palo verde. The unit is bounded by combinations of state and private land, a power transmission line, old U.S. Route 66, Interstate 40, and a portion of a railroad.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the immense size and numerous canyons and rugged terrain offer extensive and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. A total of 24,545 acres were proposed to drop and the remaining 118,455 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Numerous comments were received regarding this unit. All the comments except two agreed with the BLM proposal. One of the commenters that disagreed felt an area around Oatman should be left open to further gold exploration. The other commenter felt wilderness designation would be appropriate only if a buffer zone were provided along Interstate 40 and the railroad.

The many remaining comments, both general and specific, indicated the unit unquestionably meets the wilderness criteria. A few comments specifically supported the combining of units 28 and 29 as they are not separated by a road, but a vehicle way.

BLM Decision

The question of the unit's mineral potential is more appropriately addressed in the study phase. The current northeast boundary is approximately 1.6 miles from Oatman. The question of buffer zones or corridors for railroads or highways is also more appropriate to the study phase.

No public comments either generally or specifically questioned the previous BLM proposal, therefore Warm Springs is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

The unit is 50 miles northwest of Kingman. The eastern two-thirds of the unit consist of low, rounded hills that fall off to an outwash plain in the west. Vegetation in the unit is sparse, with creosote the predominant plant. The unit is bounded by a powerline, private land, and roads.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because of its lack of both vegetative screening and topographic diversity. This, in combination with its relatively small size, limits the unit's ability to provide solitude or outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. All 16,022 acres were proposed to be dropped from further review.

Summary of Public Comments

One general comment was received recommending the unit for wilderness designation.

BLM Decision

The previous BLM proposal has not been called into question. Therefore, Detrital Valley is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

Peoples Canyon is 30 miles northwest of Wickenburg. The terrain is highly dissected with rugged ridgelines and steep canyons. Vegetation includes a unique riparian community in the canyons, and more common desert plants on the slopes. The unit is completely surrounded by state land except for one 40-acre private parcel.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit undergo wilderness study because the many side canyons and the small portion of Peoples Canyon within the unit provide excellent opportunities for solitude. The canyon's topography and colorful rock formations provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. All 3,480 acres were proposed for further wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received on this unit and all concurred with the BLM proposal.



## BLM Decision

No public comments questioned the previous BLM proposal. Therefore, Peoples Canyon is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 2-71

### Buckskin Mountains

#### Description of the Unit

This unit lies 35 miles north of Wenden. It includes the western portion of the Buckskin Mountains and six miles of desert plain in Butler Valley. The mountainous portion consists of low, rolling mountains and narrow washes.

Vegetation is very sparse. Some creosote and prickly pear cactus are present, along with saltbrush and brittlebush. Th unit is bounded largely by maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit which is in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, since there are outstanding opportunities for solitude. A total of 30,766 acres were proposed to drop and the remaining 47,582 acres were proposed for further review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received concerning this unit. All comments but one supported this unit for wilderness study, citing the unit's unquestionable opportunities for solitude and even outstanding recreational opportunities. The one disagreeing commenter felt the unit had mineral potential as evidenced by the number of claims within the unit. The commenter provided a map and listing of all claims in the unit. One additional commenter was concerned with this unit's boundaries as it may conflict with future transmission line corridors.

#### BLM Decision

The public comments received did not call into question the wilderness criteria, therefore the Buckskin Mountains unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The questions of claims and mineral potential as well as possible future utility corridor conflicts are appropriate to the study phase.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in the southeastern Yavapai County, five miles east of Cordes Junction. It consists largely of level mesas and low, rolling hills. A short stretch of the Agua Fria River flows through the southwestern part of the unit. Vegetation is primarily grassland with scattered shrubs and juniper. The unit is bounded by roads, and state, private, and National Forest land.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be eliminated from further wilderness consideration because it does not meet the size criterion, and does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 5,897 acres were proposed to drop from further review.

Summary of Public Comments

Only one comment was received on this unit, and was general in content neither agreeing or disagreeing with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

No public comments questioned the BLM proposal, therefore Sycamore Mesa is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 10 miles north of Wenden. It is largely comprised of the Harcuvar Mountains and portions of Butler and McMullen Valleys. The topography varies from high, rounded peaks, to steep canyons that rapidly open into the bajadas in the lower valleys. The vegetation is largely grasses and yucca in the mountain areas, and palo verde, saguaro, cholla, ocotillo, and brittlebush on the bajadas. The unit is bounded by roads, state and private lands, a gas pipeline and a 350 kV transmission line.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because the unit's large size and diverse terrain and vegetation provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 19,535 acres were proposed to be dropped, while the remaining 74,778 acres were proposed for further review.



## Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on this unit and all supported wilderness designation.

## BLM Decision

The previous BLM proposal has not been called into question. Therefore, the Harcuvar Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-83

## Hassayampa River Canyon

## Description of the Unit

This unit is along the Hassayampa River Canyon, 8 miles northeast of Wickenburg. It is a diverse unit with three basic topographic features: the Hassayampa River and its numerous canyons, Fools Canyon, and a high plateau. The vegetation consists largely of cottonwoods in the river bottoms, palo verde and saguaro cactus throughout the mid elevations, and scrub oak on the plateau. The unit is bounded by state and private lands, and roads.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo further wilderness study because the unit provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to the interesting diversity of the vegetation and complexity of the topography. A total of 2,785 acres were proposed to drop and the remaining 24,200 acres were proposed for further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

An exceptional number of comments were received on this unit. Considerable numbers of commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, and an even greater number of commenters supported wilderness study.

Many comments, including Congressional inquiries, were received regarding a national riding group, the "Desert Caballeros." The Desert Caballeros yearly take a large group on horseback into unit 2-83 and the surrounding area, and were primarily concerned with the future of their ride should the area become designated wilderness. Several commenters associated with this group contend this unit does not meet the wilderness criteria as it is neither wild nor roadless but rather, heavily impacted by mining activity. Many local citizens commented along the same lines, several indicating there were mines and roads within the unit as well as cattle grazing. Many commenters gave specific locations of ranches, mines, and roads in the unit. The features most commonly mentioned were Constellation and "Bull"

roads; Beehive, Gold Bar, Black Rock, Atos and White Mines; and Hog, Cooper, J.V. Bar, Morales and Challenge Ranches. One unnamed road paralleling Fools Canyon was also mentioned.

Several of the above commenters additionally felt the area was desolate, dangerous, and inhospitable, therefore the unit would not provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Also the abundance of mines, ranches, roads and people would not allow one the opportunity for solitude.

Considerable numbers of comments supported wilderness study, citing the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. Many commenters provided lengthy descriptions of their rationale for recommending wilderness study. The rationale included the unit's exceptional natural beauty, complex terrain with a myriad of peaks and canyons, vegetative diversity ranging from Sonoran desert to oak woodlands and broadleaf riparian communities. The seasonal quality of the Hassayampa's flow and its riparian community was mentioned in most letters as an outstanding feature. Several commenters cited specific recreational activities they had participated in: hiking Fools Canyon, the Hassayampa River Canyon, and climbing Sam Powell Peak and The Needle, which some commenters rate a class 4 climb. Additionally, the comments indicated birdwatching and photographic opportunities were available. Many commenters expressed their feeling of solitude and isolation while in the unit was provided by excellent topographic and vegetation screening and extensive views from the higher peaks.

Owing to the numbers of public comments received and the information received, this unit was field checked to attempt to verify the information provided.

#### BLM Decision

In a detailed field check, we determined that all the roads, mines and ranches named as in the unit were either boundary roads, or on patented lands adjacent to but outside the unit, or located well outside the unit. The single exception is the road mentioned paralleling Fools Canyon within the unit. We know about this road. It is a new road constructed in violation of the Interim Management Policy. Works of man which are constructed in violation of the Interim Management Policy may not be considered as impairing wilderness characteristics. Rehabilitation of man made features such as this road will be examined during the study phase.

The range improvements, fences, and water holes mentioned, do not have vehicular access and are allowable within a wilderness area, as is grazing. The lack of wilderness characteristics could not be verified as the area appears to be natural, and provide outstanding opportunities for both primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude. The question of potential mineral values is more appropriate to the study phase. Horseback riding is certainly allowed in wilderness areas, but any decisions concerning limits or permits will depend upon BLM's final Wilderness Management Policy currently being drafted for public review and comment.



This unit has been determined to meet the wilderness criteria and therefore Hassayampa River Canyon is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 2-84A

South Bradshaws East

Description of the Unit

This unit comprises the eastern part of unit 2-84 and consists of one 640-acre section.

The unit is in the Bradshaw Mountains, 7 miles northwest of Black Canyon City. Its topography is characterized by steep, east-facing slopes leading to a ridgeline. The vegetation consists largely of mountain shrubs, oaks and junipers. The unit is contiguous with a U.S. Forest Service RARE II proposed wilderness on the northern boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by state lands.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the entire unit undergo wilderness study. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation only if it is considered as an integral part of the contiguous proposed wilderness. All 640 acres were proposed for further study.

Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received and all supported wilderness study except one. The one disagreeing commenter did not feel the unit merited consideration because it was under 5,000 acres in size.

BLM Decision

The requirement of 5,000 acre minimum is not necessary here as the unit is contiguous to another agency's wilderness proposal. The remaining public comments do not question the BLM's previous proposal, therefore the South Bradshaws East unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 2-84B

South Bradshaws West

Description of the Unit

This unit includes the western section of unit 2-84.

The unit is in the Bradshaw Mountains, 10 miles northwest of Black Canyon City. Its topography is characterized by a rough mesa in the east, steep slopes and cliffs in the central portion, and high rolling hills in the west. The vegetation consists largely of oak, juniper, and mountain shrubs. The unit is bounded by national forest, state, and private lands, and is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service Rare II proposed wilderness.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as it is not natural and lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 6,027 acres were proposed to be dropped from further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received regarding this unit.

## BLM Decision

The South Bradshaws West unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-86

## Buckhorn Mountains

## Description of the Unit

This unit is in south-central Yavapai County, 12 miles northwest of Lake Pleasant. It includes a portion of the Buckhorn Mountains, with numerous small canyons. The vegetation consists largely of desert scrub, cactus, and other brush. The unit is bounded by roads, and private and state lands.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit which is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because the rugged topography of this unit also offers a diversity of outstanding opportunities for recreation activities. A total of 1,144 acres were proposed to be dropped and the remaining 5,427 acres were proposed for further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Several public comments were received on this unit. The few comments supporting wilderness study were general, and did not give any specific information. A few commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, stating that the noise pollution from hunters, airplanes, and vehicles in adjacent areas affected the unit's naturalness and that the only opportunities within the unit were for rockhounding, mining, hunting and four-wheeling. One commenter did provide the location of a ranch headquarters and corral that were in the unit. The ranch location was field checked.

We also attempted to verify the effect on the overall naturalness and opportunities of the unit.



## BLM Decision

The ranch location was verified. It is along the north edge of the unit at the mouth of the major canyon. Although the field check could not determine any basis for an unusual noise level within the unit from adjacent activity, it was apparent that the unit was considerably confined by the surrounding imprints and activity. This does appear to reduce the opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience to something less than outstanding. Based on public comment and the subsequent field check, the decision on the Buckhorn Mountains is reversed and the entire unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-90

### Granite Wash Mountains

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 3 miles west of Salome in Yuma County. The portion of the Granite Wash Mountains that lies within the unit consists of two main ridges. The southern ridge is sharp and rugged, with large outcrops of basalt. The ridge to the north has huge granite boulders. The mountain slopes have a very sparse vegetative cover of desert scrub, cholla and brittlebush. The unit is bounded by roads and private lands.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. All 43,938 acres were proposed to drop from further review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received on this unit. Two commenters agreed with the BLM proposal and two disagreed. Two commenters questioned the BLM's evaluation of opportunities for recreation and solitude within the unit. They said that an area of over 17,000 acres including the core of the Granite Wash Mountains was untouched and provided ample opportunity to achieve excellent isolation. They also said the unit was not "narrow and fingerlike in configuration lacking topographic diversity." The unit, they said, is 3 miles by 7 miles with abundant diversity. The commenters indicated the unit meets the wilderness criteria and therefore should be studied further.

The two comments agreeing with the recommendation were general statements.

## BLM Decision

The remaining natural portion of the unit is less confined than we first reported. Although opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude are good, they are still not outstanding. We still believe this to be an accurate assessment, based on a review of our proposal.

Therefore, the Granite Wash Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-91

### Tank Pass

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 7 miles northwest of Salome and encompasses the western end of the Harcuvar Mountains. It includes the narrow ridge line of the Harcuvars and bajadas that descend from both the north and south sides of the ridge. The vegetation includes creosote, bursage, cholla, prickly pear cactus, ironwood, and brittlebush. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, and state and private lands.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or for primitive and unconfined recreation. The simple topographic relief and lack of vegetative screening coupled with the smallness of the area limit these opportunities. All 14,441 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

One comment was received and it supported dropping the unit from further wilderness study.

## BLM Decision

The BLM proposal has not been called into question. Tank Pass is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-92

### Harcuvar Peak

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in northeastern Yuma County, 3 miles north of Wenden. It includes a portion of the rugged Harcuvar Mountains, along with bajadas sloping from the range into the relatively flat plains of Butler and McMullen Valleys. The vegetation on the higher ridges is sparse, with creosote and bursage dominating the valleys. The unit is bounded largely by roads and state and private lands.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the imprint of man's work, largely in the form of mining activities, is substantially noticeable over much of its area.

The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, nor does the unit provide an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. All 33,600 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received. All the comments except one disagreed with the BLM proposal. A few submitted lengthy descriptions of their visits to the unit. Most commenters recognized the mining activity that has occurred within the unit. However, they felt the presence of old mining prospects and ruins added historical significance to the area rather than detracted from the unit's apparent naturalness. Additionally, these commenters felt there is a core of 5,000 acres that is natural without the imprint of man, and that within this core there are outstanding opportunities for recreation and solitude.

## BLM Decision

Based on the public comment received, this unit was field checked to determine if a 5,000-acre core existed, and if within that core there were opportunities for either outstanding recreation or solitude.

We re-hiked the unit and found that a core of 5,000 to 6,000 acres is indeed natural. The remaining 28,000 acres are significantly affected by the historic and recent mining activities throughout the unit. Within the apparently natural core we found that some opportunities for solitude and recreation do exist and can be considered good. Those opportunities were, however, neither unconfined nor outstanding, since the unit is limited in size, terrain, and types of opportunities. Therefore, Harcuvar Peak is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-99

## Big Horn Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 65 miles west of Phoenix. It is bordered on the south by the Central Arizona Project and by roads on all other sides. The center of the unit is mountainous with canyons that lead out into the bajadas and desert plains around the perimeter of the area. Vegetation is diverse with grasslands at the higher elevations, creosote on the flats, cholla in the valleys, and saguaro on the bajadas.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding because of the rugged topography, diverse vegetation and variety of landforms in the unit. A total of 1,796 acres were proposed to be dropped and the remaining 22,337 acres were proposed for further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received. All comments except one supported the BLM proposal. The one disagreeing commenter suggested the unit was not natural due to cattle grazing and range improvements. The remaining commenters strongly supported wilderness study, citing the outstanding opportunities available in the unit.

## BLM Decision

The single disagreeing comment discussed grazing conflicts. Grazing is compatible with wilderness. Conflicts will be addressed in the study phase. The Big Horn Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-100

## Hummingbird Springs

## Description of the Unit

The unit is 60 miles west of Phoenix. It contains the central and northern portions of the Bighorn Mountains which trend north to south through the unit. The range is several miles wide. Vegetation is composed of creosote and bursage, palo verde and saguaro, and desert grassland communities. The unit is bounded by a combination of private lands and roads.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the topographic complexity, large size, and dense vegetation in the unit offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 7,365 acres were proposed to be dropped and 61,660 were proposed for further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many public comments were received regarding this unit. Two commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, one commenter supplying a detailed report. The report indicated several roads and fence lines were omitted from the BLM report, numerous mining claims existed within the unit, and the eight nonwilderness corridors were contrary to the Congressional intent for wilderness. The second disagreeing commenter also indicated roads and fences are in the unit and that the area has promising mineral potential. Specific locations were not given. One commenter felt the southern boundary was incorrect as it is a fence line with no road access.



Several commenters supporting wilderness review provided descriptions of the outstanding opportunities in the unit, citing the unit's remoteness, complex topography, scenic qualities and the superb opportunities available, as justification for wilderness study. We made a field check to verify the new road information and questioned boundary.

#### BLM Decision

Our field check could not locate the roads indicated as shown on the commenters 1928 and 1948 General Land Office Survey Plats. The fence locations were verified; however, fences are allowable within wilderness study areas if they do not significantly affect the naturalness of the area. Mining claims will be taken into account in the study phase, as will the unit's configuration due to its eight corridors.

The comment concerning the southern boundary was determined to be correct. The fenceline boundary does not have an accompanying road or vehicle way, nor is the fence a significant imprint. Therefore, the adjusted southern boundary will continue south to the Central Arizona Project Flood Control right-of-way. This change will add approximately 6,020 acres.

Based on the public comments received and subsequent field checking, Hummingbird Springs unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area, with an additional 6,020 acres bringing the total to 67,680 acres.

#### Unit No. 2-103

#### Black Butte

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles southwest of Wickenburg. It contains a small portion of the Vulture Mountains and extensive portions of the Hassayampa Plain. Vegetation consists of a palo verde and saguaro community in the north, and creosote in the south. The unit is bounded by a powerline and a combination of roads and state land.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Opportunities for solitude do not exist because the unit is narrow and lacks topographic and vegetative screening. It also does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation because of the shape, topography, and lack of features. All 20,460 acres were proposed to be dropped.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Only two comments were received on this unit, and neither comment addressed the wilderness criteria. One suggested wilderness as a buffer to urban sprawl. The other indicated Black Butte could have gold since the unit is close to the Vulture Mine near Wickenburg.

## BLM Decision

Substantive public comment questioning the BLM proposal was not received. Therefore, Black Butte is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-107

## Belmont Hills North

## Description of the Unit

This unit is 23 miles southwest of Wickenburg. It includes the western portion of the Belmont Mountains, a range that is topographically complex. The northeast portion of the unit is a desert plain. Vegetation is dominated by a saguaro and creosote desert scrub community with palo verde and ironwood common in the washes. The unit is almost entirely surrounded by roads except for a small parcel of state-owned land on the east side.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because of the unnatural effects of man and the lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. All 11,500 acres were proposed to be dropped from further review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received concerning this unit. All the comments disagreed with the BLM proposal. The Sierra Club felt that by adjusting the boundary a natural area could be delineated. Other commenters including the Sierra Club suggested many of the imprints of man were not significant, or that in the case of mining scars they were abandoned and of historic value rather than intrusive. It was also noted that several imprints had limited visibility or were returning to a natural condition.

Additionally, the commenters felt the unit provided outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. The comments indicated the unit's complex topography, numerous hills, side canyons, and remoteness supplied those opportunities. We made a field check to verify the comments.

## BLM Decision

Our field check determined that a 5,000-acre core of apparently-natural land could not be delineated due to the cumulative impacts of mining activity, roads, and ways. As a natural area could not be delineated, a review of the opportunities for recreation or solitude was not attempted. Therefore, Belmont Hills North is dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Description of the Unit

This unit is 25 miles southwest of Wickenburg. The southern half of the unit encompasses the main portion of the Belmont Hills while the northern half consists of the western edge of the Hassayampa Plain. Vegetation in the unit is typical of a desert scrub community and includes palo verde-saguaro associations on the hills and creosote-bursage associations on the plains. Roads, scattered parcels of state land, and the Central Arizona Project form the boundary of the unit.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, because there are no outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive or unconfined recreation. All 18,773 acres were proposed to be dropped.

Summary of Public Comments

The unit has received several comments. All but one disagree with the BLM proposal. This majority questioned the application of the subjective criteria concerning outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. In particular, the use of off-site impacts and apparent lack of topographic complexity in the evaluation of solitude was questioned. Commenters also said primitive recreation opportunities were outstanding, with a great diversity and challenge available in several activities.

The one comment in general agreement with the BLM proposal cited potential gold and copper deposits in the area. These are being actively explored. The importance of multiple-use of these lands was also stressed.

Because of the specific comments that questioned the BLM's intensive inventory findings concerning the availability of outstanding solitude and primitive recreation, we field checked the unit.

BLM Decision

After careful field review, we determined that the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

The outside impacts described in the narrative report are not mitigated by the unit's limited topographic relief. The narrow singular ridgeline and desert bajadas offer some opportunities. If the unit was larger, or provided extensive interior, the opportunities for solitude would be considered much greater. A few areas in the unit do provide a high degree of solitude, however, these are limited and cannot be considered outstanding.

In our field check we also found that the unit offered several opportunities for a variety of recreation activities. Some of the hiking and rock scrambling activities were quite challenging. However, since the size of this area does not enhance these activities and the unit lacks a reasonable degree of topographic diversity, we do not consider these opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation to be outstanding.

Belmont Mountains, therefore, are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 2-118

Cedar Basin

Description of the Unit

This unit is in south-central Yavapai County, 17 miles east of Wickenburg. It comprises part of the Hieroglyphic Mountains. The topography is characterized by rolling hills and low mountains with numerous washes and some small canyons. The vegetation consists of shrubs, grasses, and cactus. A mixture of state lands and roads form the boundary of the unit.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be eliminated from further wilderness consideration. Several opportunities exist for primitive recreation, but these activities are hindered by the unnatural character of the unit to the point where they cannot be considered outstanding. All 7,883 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Two commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, but neither addressed the wilderness criteria. One comment said that a portion of the unit was appropriate for wilderness if it was incorporated into unit 2-119. The other comment mentioned only supplemental features.

BLM Decision

No comments, generally or specifically, said that the unit was natural or had outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude. As unit 2-118 and 2-119 are separated by an improved and maintained road, combining the units is impossible. Cedar Basin is dropped from further consideration.

Unit No. 2-119

Hells Canyon

Description of the Unit

This unit is in south-central Yavapai County, 20 miles east of Wickenburg. It contains a portion of the Hieroglyphic Mountains consisting of small, rugged, highly-dissected mountains with numerous twisting canyons. Vegetation in the unit consists primarily of desert scrub and grasses, saguaros, and other cacti. The unit is bounded by a mixture of roads, state lands, and private land.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness review. Its rugged mountains and canyons provide excellent opportunities for solitude and provide outstanding opportunities for several types of primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 6 acres were proposed to be dropped from further review and the remaining 9,379 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received. All but two comments supported wilderness study. One of these was a petition signed by people who feel it is unnecessary to consider 2-119 for wilderness study since its wilderness values would be available regardless of how one chose to use Hells Canyon. Though the petition did not favor wilderness study, it did recognize wilderness values exist in this unit.

A few other comments specifically addressed the outstanding opportunities available in the unit. The remaining comments were general, supporting a wilderness study area or wilderness designation for Hells Canyon.

Additionally, one commenter indicated a route identified as a "cherry-stemmed" road by the BLM was actually a vehicle way.

We made a field check to verify the status of questioned vehicle route.

## BLM Decision

No disagreeing comments specifically addressed the wilderness criteria. The question of whether wilderness designation is desirable to protect the area will be considered in the study phase. Our field check of the questioned vehicle route determined the route was maintained for regular and continuous use and therefore qualifies as a road. Hells Canyon is established a Wilderness Study Area with no additional boundary modifications.

## Unit No. 2-120

## Baldy Mountain

## Description of the Unit

This unit is in Yavapai and Maricopa Counties just west of the Lake Pleasant Regional Park. The unit contains part of the Hieroglyphic Mountains consisting of a few small mountains, numerous low rolling hills, and many small washes. Desert scrub and grasses, chollas, and saguaros are the predominant vegetation. The unit is bounded on the east by the regional park and on all other sides by roads.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the unnatural character of a large portion of this unit makes the quality of the solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities less than outstanding. All 10,736 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received on this unit. One commenter disagreed with the BLM proposal. This commenter addressed the specific wilderness criteria with a rating system indicating outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude were available. Other comments received agreed with the BLM proposal, and some of these were general statements concerning the areas mineral value.

### BLM Decision

No comments adequately questioned the BLM proposal. Therefore, Baldy Mountain is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-124

### Petrified Forest

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in east-central Navajo County 20 miles northeast of Holbrook. It is primarily a flat area with a plain and central mesa. Vegetation consists of grass with scattered juniper trees. The unit is bounded on the north by National Park Service land, and on all other sides by private land. The unit is 560 acres in size.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the entire unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not meet the size criterion and is not technically adjacent to the Park Service's wilderness. All 560 acres were proposed to be dropped from further review.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received concerning this unit.

### BLM Decision

The Petrified Forest is dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Description of the Unit

This unit is in central Yuma County, 10 miles east of Quartzsite. It is contiguous with a wilderness proposal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Roads, state and private land, and the Kofa Game Range form the unit's boundaries. The area is characterized by rugged volcanic mountains dissected by narrow canyons and sandy washes. There is also one portion that is a large creosote plain.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness study due to the unit's size, numerous canyons, ravines, and rugged, craggy peaks, that provide opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation that are outstanding. All 58,600 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received regarding this unit. Several comments agreed with the BLM proposal, while an equal number disagreed with the proposal.

Of the comments which disagreed, most cited the mining activity in the immediate area as affecting the unit's naturalness and precluding opportunities for solitude or recreation. Those comments were general, a few providing general locations of mines or roads. One commenter felt the presence of Interstate 10 as three miles of the unit's boundary compromised the wilderness character of the land, and that a buffer zone is needed.

Of the comments supporting wilderness study, one was a detailed report from the Four Corners Wilderness Workshop. The commenters cited the rugged volcanics and complex mountain terrain as providing outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. The Four Corners report supplied substantial information regarding potential for eventual wilderness designation.

One commenter felt the western boundary is inappropriate as it follows a vehicle way which is partially in a wash and receives limited use.

BLM Decision

A review of the photo documentation of the unit's western boundary showed our initial proposal to be correct. Even though a large portion of the way does not appear used and much of it is in a wash, portions of this way are constructed and highly visible posing a significant impact from any vantage point. We determined it, therefore, to be an appropriate boundary.

Those comments indicating other mines and roads in the unit were too general to verify most locations. Those imprints which could be checked all appeared to be outside the unit. The question of mineral values in the unit is more appropriately addressed in the study phase, as is the comment suggesting a buffer zone along Interstate 10.

The New Water Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area, with no additional boundary modifications.

#### Unit No 2-126A

#### Little Horn Mountains West

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is in east-central Yuma County, 30 miles west of Quartzsite, and is adjacent to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife wilderness proposal. Elsewhere, roads form the unit's boundaries. A portion of the Little Horn Mountains within the unit is characterized by basalt hills and numerous volcanic features. Drainages in the area are shallow and rocky. Vegetation consists of palo verde and saguaro on the hills, with a mixed desert scrub in the lower areas.

Field work determined that unit 2-126, (Little Horn Mountains West) was divided by a road. The presence of this road divided the unit into subunits 126A and 126B.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit undergo wilderness study because it provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and is a natural and complimentary continuation of the Kofa wilderness proposal. A total of 2,650 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration and 13,800 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received on this unit. Those comments received all supported wilderness study for the unit. One commenter felt this unit was defacto wilderness, and an integral part of the Kofa Wilderness Proposal.

#### BLM Decision

As no comments were received questioning the BLM proposal, unit 126A, Little Horn Mountains West, is established as a Wilderness Study Area.



Description of the Unit

This unit is in east-central Yuma County, 30 miles southeast of Quartzsite. Portions are adjacent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Kofa wilderness proposal. Our unit consists of a few low peaks and hills of the Little Horn Mountains, but the bulk of the unit is the Palomas Plain. Vegetation in the mountains is primarily palo verde and saguaro. Creosote and bursage dominate the plain. The unit is bounded by the Yuma Proving Grounds, Kofa Game Range, private land, and roads.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is not a significant continuation of the Kofa Wilderness proposal and does not materially contribute to it. All 9,240 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received on this unit.

BLM Decision

As the BLM proposal was not called into question, unit 2-126B, Little Horn Mountains West, is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in east-central Yuma County, 60 miles northwest of Gila Bend. Numerous washes dissecting the desert pavement characterize the area. Communities of creosote and bursage on the flats and palo verde and saguaro in the washes provide sparse vegetative cover. The unit is bounded on all sides by roads.

This unit was originally part of WSA 2-127. However, comments received during the initial inventory public comment period indicated that a road dissected the Little Horn Mountains Wilderness Study Area, creating Unit 2-127A, Red Raven Wash.

BLM Proposal

We proposed this unit be dropped from further wilderness review because it lacks naturalness. All 27,079 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received on this unit.

### BLM Decision

As the previous BLM proposal was not called into question, Red Raven Wash is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-130

### Palomas Plain

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in east-central Yuma County, 45 miles west-northwest of Gila Bend. It is bounded by roads on all sides.

A portion of the much larger Palomas Plain, the unit is characterized by a gently-sloping expanse of land dissected by numerous swales and washes. The plain is interrupted by a single basalt ridge and two nearby hills in the northern portion of the unit. Palo verde and ironwood are the dominant vegetation with saguaro scattered throughout the unit.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that this area be dropped from further wilderness consideration due to the cumulative impacts affecting the naturalness of the unit. All 30,700 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received concerning this unit.

### BLM Decision

As the BLM proposal was not called into question, Palomas Plain is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-131

### Tank Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in southwestern Arizona, about 45 miles west of Gila Bend. It includes the eastern portion of the Tank Mountains and a large section of the Palomas Plain. The range is characterized by low basalt peaks and hills. It is separated north and south by a narrow portion of the Palomas Plain. Vegetation is primarily composed of sparse creosote and bursage with palo verde, saguaro, ironwood, and mesquite in the drainages.

The unit is bounded primarily by roads with a military reservation on the western boundary and a combination of state lands and roads on the south.



### BLM Proposal

We proposed the entire unit be dropped from further wilderness study because, although an opportunity for solitude exists within the remaining natural area, it cannot be considered outstanding because of the poor vegetative screening and lack of topographic relief. Some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist, but the open terrain and proximity to the Yuma Gunnery Range make them less than outstanding. All 43,400 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received on this unit.

### BLM Decision

The Tank Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-132/133

### Palomas Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in east-central Yuma County, 50 miles west of Gila Bend. A portion of the Palomas Mountains with its associated bajadas, creosote flats and washes characterize the topography of the unit. Vegetation is sparse in this Lower Sonoran Desert life zone. The Yuma Proving Ground forms the west boundary, the remainder of the unit is bounded by roads and state land.

We changed the boundary during the field inventory because we found that the original boundary road separating units 2-132 (Palomas Mountains West) and unit 2-133 (Palomas Mountains East), is actually not a road for most of its length. These two units have been combined to form one unit.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness review because solitude is not outstanding in the unit due to poor vegetative screening, the lack of secluded areas, and the sights and sounds of the adjacent Yuma Proving Ground. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation exist, they are not outstanding. All 28,040 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received on this unit.

### BLM Decision

The Palomas Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is in southwestern Maricopa County, 33 miles southwest of Buckeye. It is bounded by state and private lands on the southwest side and by roads elsewhere. Face Mountain is a steep and rugged prominence that dominates the flat Hyder Valley and the highly dissected Dendora Valley that surround it. The vegetation varies throughout the unit and ranges from a sparse creosote and bursage association, to a dense palo verde and saguaro community, to cholla thickets at the mountain's ridge top.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit for elimination from further wilderness consideration because it lacks opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 39,560 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review, although 24,500 acres were considered to be substantially natural. (A re-calculation showed this natural acreage to actually be 26,600.)

Summary of Public Comments

A large number of people commented on this unit. They overwhelmingly questioned the subjective application of the criteria dealing with outstandingness and disagreed with BLM's proposal that the unit had neither outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation nor solitude. Several comments suggested that portions of the boundary between 2-136 and 2-137 did not qualify as a road and that the two units were really one large roadless area. Several comments cited supplemental scenic values. Several comments specifically questioned the rationale for adjusting the boundary around minor impacts along the periphery of the unit.

BLM Decision

Both the great number of comments disagreeing with the BLM proposal and the specificity of several others necessitated a field review. We hiked the unit and found it has an outstanding opportunity for solitude, but no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The relatively dense desert wash vegetation, badlands, and general terrain do provide ample opportunity to avoid the sights and sounds of others and one achieves a definite sense of isolation in the unit. The boundary road between units 136 and 137, although in poor condition in some stretches, was constructed and shows definite signs of periodic maintenance. Therefore it does qualify as a road and the two units remain separate.

The questions regarding cumulative imprints and boundary adjustments to exclude them have been field checked. We determined that some of the boundary modifications were not justified since they excluded areas that were essentially natural. A boundary readjustment all the way back to the Aqua Caliente Road was considered improper though, because of the significant effect of off-road vehicle use near that road.



Accordingly, the western boundary has been modified to follow a major drainage that runs north to south through the unit, starting at the Southern Pacific tracks in T. 4 S., R. 9 W., section 17, and trending north until it reaches a way in T. 3 S., R. 9 W., section 31. This way becomes part of a new northern boundary for a short distance east until it intercepts the boundary in T. 2 S., R. 9 W., section 32. A collection of mineral exploration sites (Imprint Y) will remain excluded from the Wilderness Study Area.

The drainage was selected as a boundary for two reasons. First, it is a well-defined and easily-recognizable feature. Secondly and most important, this border still excludes all significant imprints while allowing an additional 2,150 acres of natural land to be re-incorporated into the unit. Thus, the natural area is 28,750 acres.

An additional boundary modification has been made along the southern and southeastern edges of the unit for the tentatively-identified route of the Arizona Public Service-San Diego Gas & Electric Interconnection Project's 500 kV transmission line. The proposed corridor is one-quarter-mile wide except for a short segment where the terrain makes a one-half-mile-wide corridor necessary. This segment is in section 1 of T. 4 S., R. 9 W. The entire corridor is within both the "preferred alternate route" and BLM's "environmentally-preferred route," both identified in the "Draft Environmental Statement," of August 1980. The corridor and the transmission line proposed will be parallel to and north of the boundary previously identified in BLM field work.

The boundary has been adjusted one-quarter mile to the northwest of the actual railroad right-of-way, in sections 21, 28, 29, 31, and 32 (T. 3 S., R. 8 W.); in sections 8 and 17 (T. 4 S., R. 9 W.); and in the NE-1/4 of section 1 (T. 4 S., R. 9 W.). A one-half-mile-wide adjustment to the northwest begins in the SW-1/4 NE-1/4 of section 1 (T. 4 S., R. 9 W.), and proceeds in a southwesterly direction until it intercepts state land. The boundary then follows the state land property line until it reaches the common corner of sections 2, 3, 10, and 11, where it jogs one-quarter mile to the west, and again follows state land property lines. This adjustment reduces the unit by another 1,175 acres, which lie between the southeast boundary road and the northwest edge of the corridor.

Because the unit does provide opportunities for outstanding solitude, the BLM proposal is reversed, and Face Mountain, with a modified boundary and acreage adjustments, is established as a Wilderness Study Area of 27,575 acres. Dropped from further consideration are 11,985 acres.



Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Gila Mountains 60 miles southwest of Phoenix. A portion of the Dendora Valley Plain is encompassed by the unit. The topography is characterized by the Fourth of July Wash located in the central portion of the unit, and several scattered mesas and buttes. Vegetative cover is sparse. The unit is bounded on all sides by roads.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the lack of sufficient topographic diversity and vegetative screening, combined with the man-made impacts, detract from the opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. All 37,983 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received regarding this unit. All the commenters disagreed with BLM's proposal that the unit had neither outstanding opportunities for solitude nor for primitive recreation. Several letters, one complete with photos, said that solitude was outstanding because of the topographic diversity, the unit's remoteness, and the feeling of isolation that are enhanced by the open desert. Hiking opportunities were also considered excellent. Several comments, one documented with photos, suggested that the boundary road between 2-136 and 2-137 south of an earthen dam in T.3S., R.9W, section 12, was only a vehicle way. The commenter felt 2-136 and 2-137 should be combined into one large wilderness area.

Since all the commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, with several being very specific, we made a field review of Yellow Medicine Butte.

BLM Decision

Careful field checking of the unit determined that our proposal was correct. The use of Fourth of July Wash as a boundary to eliminate the cumulative imprints of man in the eastern portion of the unit is a correct application of wilderness inventory guidelines. The use of the wash and the roads leading to it excludes all significant imprints while forming a well-defined and easily-recognizable border. However, while the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are good because of the unit's size and remoteness, they cannot be considered outstanding. The unit's insufficient topographic and vegetative screening, and the lack of a well-screened or extensive interior are limiting.

The boundary road between 2-136 and 2-137, while in poor condition in stretches, shows signs of regular and continuous use and maintenance. The road needs very little maintenance along the flat bajada found in the southern portion of the unit. Therefore, Yellow Medicine Butte is dropped from further wilderness consideration because it does not provide outstanding opportunities, nor can it be combined with an adjacent inventory unit that can provide these opportunities.



Description of the Unit

This unit is 18 miles northwest of Gila Bend. It is bounded by roads and a combination of state and private lands. Signal Mountain rises at the center of the unit and is surrounded by steep-walled canyons, arroyos, ridges, sharp peaks, and several major washes. Vegetation consists of palo verde and saguaro, and creosote and bursage communities.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit which is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because numerous small valleys, canyons, ridges, and peaks provide areas of outstanding solitude. These complex and scenic topographic features also afford numerous opportunities for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 8,150 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 20,920 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

Two comments were received, both in favor of wilderness status.

BLM Decision

As neither comment questioned the previous BLM proposal, Signal Mountain is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

This unit lies in western Maricopa County, 40 miles northwest of Gila Bend. The unit is bounded by roads, the El Paso Natural Gas pipeline, and private lands. It is comprised of the northwestern extension of Hyder Valley, specifically the Sacaton Flats. The overall relief of the area is fairly uniform with the exception of several basaltic hills rising about 300 feet above the plains. Large expanses of desert pavement are the predominant landform of the area.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it lacks naturalness. All 9,340 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

The one comment received supported wilderness designation for the unit.

## BLM Decision

As the one comment did not specifically address BLM wilderness criteria, Hyder Valley is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit 2-142/144

## Woolsey Peak

### Description of the Unit

The Woolsey Peak and Bunyan Peak inventory units, 2-142 and 2-144 respectively, were initially considered to be individual units separated by a road. During the intensive inventory it was determined that this "road" does not meet the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook" definition of a road. It is a vehicle way that does not affect the area's naturalness. The result of this finding was that the two units were combined to form one unit, called Woolsey Peak.

The unit is in southwestern Maricopa County, 16 miles southwest of Buckeye. It is bounded by roads, private land, and the Painted Rocks Reservoir. Woolsey Peak dominates the unit and is surrounded by a variety of topographic features including a lava flow, a dozen mesas, and numerous rugged peaks. The palo verde-saguaro, and creosote-bursage associations are the primary vegetative features. The drainages support desert riparian flora.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because solitude can be experienced throughout the unit due to the excellent screening provided by the unit's diverse topography. The size, diversity, and ruggedness of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 7,770 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 73,930 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received, all but two supporting wilderness study. The two dissenters cited unnatural areas but gave no specific locations. Several comments supported combining the two units; one comment proposed treating units 2-142/144 and 2-138 as a single unit; another suggested grouping this unit with units 2-138, 2-143 and 2-137 as "a large wilderness park."



## BLM Decision

No comments specifically called into question the previous BLM proposal. The comments regarding combining and grouping of units are more appropriate to the study phase. Therefore, Woolsey Peak is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 2-143

Gila Bend Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit lies 6 miles north of Gila Bend. It is bounded by private land on the east and the Gila Bend Indian Reservation on the south. State land forms the southwestern boundary, and public land forms the western and northern boundaries. The eastern area of the unit is mountainous, while a small portion of the Gila River floodplain is in the southwest section. Vegetation in the unit consists of a sparse palo verde and saguaro community, with a creosote and bursage association.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it lacks naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 19,900 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

The one comment received supported wilderness designation for the unit.

## BLM Decision

As the one comment did not address the BLM wilderness criteria, Gila Bend Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 2-148

Gila River

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 24 miles west of Gila Bend. It is bounded by a single-pole powerline, private land, and a road. The Sentinel Plain and the Gila River are the unit's major features. The plain is characterized by low rolling hills dissected by numerous washes and one arroyo. The Gila River with its pristine and unique riparian communities meanders for 2-1/2 miles through the unit. Cliffs rise 50 to 120 feet above the river. Vegetation on the plain is of the Lower Sonoran type while the river bottom supports a dense growth characterized by willows, acacias, and reeds.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. All 16,400 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received.

## BLM Decision

As the BLM proposal has not been called into question, Gila River is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-155A

## Painted Rock Mountains South

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 18 miles west of Gila Bend. It is bounded on the north and east by private land and elsewhere by roads. The basalt flatlands of the Sentinel Plain make up most of the unit's surface, with the exception of a portion of the Painted Rock Mountains in the east, and a part of the Gila River in the north. Vegetation consists of plants found in the Lower Sonoran life zone including a dense riparian community.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because, although the unit offers very good opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, they are not outstanding because of the lack of topographic complexity and vegetative screening. All 39,450 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received concerning this unit. All comments received disagreed with the BLM proposal. Both general and specific comments identified the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation available in this unit. The unit's arrangement of valleys, washes, canyons, hills, and ridges were cited by the commenters as providing excellent screening for solitude and a number of recreational opportunities. One commenter questioned the use of "outside sights and sounds" by the BLM as a contributing factor detracting from the opportunities for solitude. That comment stated that Oatman radar facilities, Interstate 8, and agricultural fields have only limited effects on portions of the unit, not the entire unit. Several commenters stated they could not understand how the northern unit 155B could be proposed for wilderness study and the southern unit, 155A not. They feel 2-155A has the same or even greater qualities of 155B due to its greater topographic diversity and size.



Two commenters questioned the "road" separating 2-155A and B, feeling that it was not receiving maintenance and therefore was a vehicle way. Also one commenter noted that a north-south route identified as a vehicle way by BLM has recently been graded and probably was a road. Based on the specificity of the public comments received, a field check was undertaken.

#### BLM Decision

A careful field check concluded the route separating 155A and B is indeed a road. Though rough in places it appears to be maintained for regular and continuous use throughout its length. The field check also concluded that the north-south route (vehicle way d.) is actually a road thus dividing the unit further into an east and west portion. The west portion consists primarily of the Sentinel Plain northwest to the Gila River. This portion of 24,460 acres contains the majority of impacts and is essentially unnatural. The east portion consists of the Painted Rock Mountains and some surrounding Sentinel Plain. This part is 14,990 acres and is substantially natural.

The field checks reinforced the impression that the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Interstate 8, Oatman Mountain communication facilities, and the agricultural lands in relatively close proximity combine to interfere with feelings of solitude. During one field check, the frequent sounds of passing diesel locomotives on the track paralleling Interstate 8, was not only noticeable but somewhat annoying. Accordingly, the decision is to drop unit 2-155A from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 2-155B

#### Painted Rock Mountains North

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 18 miles northwest of Gila Bend. It originally was part of Unit 155. Unit 155B contains the northern third of the Painted Rock Mountains and its associated bajada to the west. Vegetation consists of a sparse palo verde and saguaro community with creosote, brittle bush, and teddy bear cholla on the desert floor. Palo verde, ironwood, and mesquite grow along the drainages. The unit is bounded by roads and by private land.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because, although the unit has no outstanding opportunities for solitude, due to its small size and lack of substantial vegetative screening, the opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding because of the topographic diversity of the area. A total of 430 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 9,320 were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received regarding this unit. All the comments except one agreed with the BLM proposal. The supportive comments were both general and specific identifying the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation available in the unit. The unit's arrangement of hills, ridges, canyons and washes were cited as providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Two commenters questioned the "road" separating 2-155A and B, feeling it is not receiving maintenance and therefore is a vehicle way.

The one disagreeing comment did not provide specific information, the primary concern being that trapping and hunting should be allowed in the area.

## BLM Decision

In conjunction with the comments received on unit 2-155A, a field check determined the route separating A and B is a road. Though rough in places, it appears to be maintained for regular and continuous use.

Trapping and hunting are regulated by Arizona Game and Fish regardless of wilderness review or designation.

Field checks made of this unit in conjunction with unit 2-155A reinforced the impression that the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. The small size of the unit and general lack of screening except in depressions, prevents solitude in the area from being considered outstanding. The unit is also affected by the same outside sights and sounds as unit 2-155A.

Recreational opportunities were also reconsidered during the field checks. While opportunities for primitive recreation certainly exist, they are not considered outstanding to the extent of being superior to other areas of similar character. Accordingly, the decision is to drop unit 2-155B from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-157

## North Maricopa Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is located along the northern end of the Maricopa Mountains, 12 miles northeast of Gila Bend. It contains a 10-mile-long portion of the Maricopa Mountains as well as extensive portions of the surrounding desert plain. This plain is dissected by countless washes, some of which are quite sizeable and display a wide diversity of vegetation. The vegetation consists primarily of a palo verde and saguaro community with creosote, mesquite, and some dense stands of cholla. Ironwood is common in the drainages.



The unit is bounded by a 230 kV powerline for half its western boundary, by a gas pipeline on its northern boundary, and roads on the remaining boundaries.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the size, diverse and rugged terrain, and the general wildness of the unit provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 2,165 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 75,485 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received regarding this unit, one of which was a detailed report from Motorola 4-Wheelers Club. A few comments supported the BLM proposal and an equal number disagreed with the proposal. Two commenters, including Motorola 4-Wheelers, indicated several roads, fences, range improvements and Game and Fish water catchments were located within the unit. The 4-Wheelers provided a map and photos of some of the imprints.

The club did not feel this unit met the wilderness criteria because: they disagree with the BLM's definition of a road. They disagreed with using solitude as a wilderness criterion. They also said the unit was too dry to allow for recreation. Additionally, the club felt the unit would not qualify because there are fence lines, evidence of grazing, and a potential for undiscovered minerals.

The other commenters who agreed with the BLM proposal cited the pristine character of over 75,000 acres and the panoramic views available, concluding that the unit provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and for solitude.

A field check was undertaken to verify the imprint locations and comments.

### BLM Decision

Of the intrusion information provided, two items were new information. A road mapped by the 4-Wheelers linking two vehicle ways together proved to be entirely a wash bottom. The reservoir located was found along the southern boundary and a boundary adjustment of 2 acres was made to remove it from the unit. All the Game and Fish catchments were previously "cherry-stemmed" in the intensive inventory as they had maintained road access. Fence lines are allowable in wilderness study areas provided they are not significant intrusions. None of the fence lines in this unit were determined to be significant imprints. Cattle grazing is compatible within wilderness areas. The question of potential mineral values is appropriately addressed in the study phase.

The definitions of "solitude" and "roads," while being nonetheless subjective, are derived from the Congressional record, the Wilderness Act, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, and are appropriate considerations. The definitions have been carefully and consistently applied throughout this inventory.

Based on the public comments and field checking of this unit, North Maricopa Mountains is established as a Wilderness Study Area of 75,483 acres, 2 acres being deleted for the reservoir and its short access road located along the unit's south boundary.

Unit No. 2-160

Sierra Estrella

Description of the Unit

This unit is in south-central Maricopa County, 15 miles southwest of Phoenix. It is bounded on the north and east by the Gila River Indian Reservation, and by a road on the southwest side. The topography of the unit is divided into three distinct parts: the steep peaks, deep canyons and narrow ridges of the Sierra Estrellas; a long sweeping bajada; and a lower range of mountains called the Seven Mile Mountains. Vegetation in the unit consists of palo verde and saguaro in the lower bajada, a transition to creosote, bursage, and cholla, to the base of the mountains, into a canotia and mixed scrub area at higher elevations.

BLM Proposal

We proposed to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration because, although opportunities exist for solitude due to the dense vegetative screening, the rugged terrain will tend to channel users along a limited number of routes, leading to frequent contacts with others. The single dominant peak within the unit may also attract the bulk of the area's users, further diminishing one's opportunity for solitude. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered outstanding. All 22,740 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

A considerable amount of public comment was received on this unit. Nearly all disagreed with BLM's proposal that the unit had neither outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Several comments, including two from clubs and organizations that contained detailed maps and photographs, indicated that the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria because it was unnatural. Roads, prospects, extensive mining activity, and evidence of grazing and off-road vehicle use were cited. They stated that the area should be left open to multiple use.



## BLM Decision

The detailed comments disagreeing with the BLM proposal required a field review of the Sierra Estrella unit. The commenters that questioned the unit's naturalness provided no new information except for a road in section 10, a route the BLM called a vehicle way in its narrative report. This route was not bladed and does not receive regular and continuous use. It does not meet the criteria required for definition as a road. Roads, prospects, and areas severely impacted by ORV use were accurately determined by field examination during the intensive inventory and deleted from the inventory unit. The majority of additional imprints discussed in comments were on state land, which was not inventoried.

We determined that within the natural part of the unit, the rugged terrain of the Sierra Estrella Mountains did provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, especially along the ridgeline.

Opportunities for solitude were considered only good due to the narrow and singular character of the ridgeline, and the proximity of the unit to Phoenix. An area need only have an outstanding opportunity for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation, according to the BLM inventory guidelines.

Because the unit does have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, the earlier proposal to drop the Sierra Estrellas is reversed and the unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The Wilderness Study Area consists of 14,190 acres and 8,550 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 2-163

South Maricopa Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 8 miles east of Gila Bend. It is comprised of a small rugged mountain range surrounded by gently-rolling desert, which is dissected by numerous washes originating in the mountains. Vegetation consists of creosote bush, bursage, and some saguaro on the mountain slopes. Dense palo verde and ironwood stands grow along the washes, while creosote and bursage communities grow on the flats between the washes. The unit is bounded by Interstate 8, private land, and by the Maricopa Road.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the wide diversity of land types and complex topography provide visitors with outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. A total of 8,177 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 72,004 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on this unit. All the comments except two agreed with the BLM proposal. The two disagreeing comments were concerned primarily with activities allowed or not allowed within a wilderness area. These two commenters asserted that the area would be of no use to trappers, hunters, or residents of Gila Bend if designated wilderness.

The comments in support of wilderness study were mostly general. Only one commenter provided specific information, addressing the outstanding opportunities available for primitive recreation and solitude.

### BLM Decision

The question concerning the area's use to Gila Bend residents as wilderness is more appropriate to the study phase. Trapping and hunting are, however, legitimate wilderness uses. They would be still be regulated by Arizona Game and Fish Department regulations. No public comments substantially questioned the BLM proposal, therefore the South Maricopa Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 2-164

### Butterfield Stage Memorial

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles east of Gila bend. It is bounded by a flood diversion channel and by roads. This area has a central core of rugged mountains that form the southern tip of the North Maricopas. Vegetation is primarily palo verde, saguaro, cholla, and bursage.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the entire unit undergo wilderness study because, although the area's small size precludes outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, it does offer opportunities for solitude. Eight acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 9,566 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Many comments were received regarding this unit with equal numbers agreeing and disagreeing with the BLM proposal. One of the comments was a detailed report from the Motorola 4-Wheelers. They and several others indicated that roads, evidence of grazing, survey markers, fences, range improvements, disturbed quartz outcroppings, and several historic sites and markers were within the unit. They believed also that these areas should remain open to vehicular traffic to allow visitation of these historic sites. Two other comments in disagreement were concerned primarily with what activities would be, or not be, allowed within a wilderness area, stating that the area would be of no use to hunters, trappers, or local residents if designated wilderness. The potential also exists for mineral discoveries in the area.



The Motorola 4-Wheelers mapped and photographed roads, historic markers, and intrusions that they considered significant. Additionally, the club did not feel that the unit met the wilderness criteria because they disagree with BLM's definition of a road and the use of the word "solitude."

The other commenters agreed with the BLM proposal citing the outstanding opportunities for solitude, stating that the topography and vegetative screening are outstanding and provide excellent hiking. Also, that the unit provides several supplemental values including the historical importance of the Butterfield Stage Memorial and the distance from urban areas. The Sierra Club suggested that the northern boundary road be closed and that Wilderness Study Areas 2-157 and 2-164 be combined into a Greater Maricopa Mountains Wilderness Study Area.

A field check was undertaken to verify the locations of the reported imprints of man.

### BLM Decision

Of the intrusion information provided, two items were new information. The roads mapped and photographed by the 4-Wheelers in sections 2 and 3 were not mapped earlier. They are, however, vehicle ways, not roads. They show no signs of maintenance or regular and continuous use. All other vehicle routes in the unit are ways. The evidence of grazing and the presence of historical sites and markers are acceptable within a wilderness area if they are not significant impacts. These were considered insignificant impacts. The disturbed quartz outcroppings, fences, and survey markers were determined to be insignificant also.

The question regarding the areas use by local residents and the combination of units 2-157 and 2-164 are more appropriate to the study phase. Trapping and hunting are legitimate wilderness uses.

The definitions of "solitude" and "roads," while being nonetheless subjective, are derived from the Congressional record, the Wilderness Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and are appropriate considerations. The definitions have been carefully and consistently applied throughout this inventory.

Based on the public comments received and field checking this unit, we determined that no comments substantially questioned the original proposal. Therefore, the Butterfield Stage Memorial is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The intensive inventory map will be modified to show the additional vehicle ways documented within the unit.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 8 miles southwest of Gila Bend. It contains the northeast portion of the Sand Tank Mountains, a highly dissected area of small scattered hills, mountains, bajada, and plain. Vegetation includes palo verde, saguaro, creosote, cholla, barrel cactus, and ocotillo. The unit's boundaries are formed by Interstate 8, and Luke Air Force Range, and a combination of roads and private land.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be eliminated from further wilderness consideration because opportunities for solitude are severely limited by the unit's lack of topographic diversity, poor vegetative screening, narrow shape, and nearness to the noise of vehicle traffic on Interstate 8. Primitive recreation opportunities are also limited by the unit's narrow shape and relatively uniform terrain. All 33,690 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on this unit, all disagreed with the BLM proposal. Some comments contended the unit does have outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude. Some commenters felt the unit has lush vegetation and good topographic screening to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. They also felt the attractiveness of the area and easy access provided outstanding recreational opportunities. Two commenters stated the vehicle noise from Interstate 8 was not overwhelming.

BLM Decision

Those comments received questioned the subjective determinations of outstandingness, however, the comments provided did not effectively substantiate the claims of outstandingness. Therefore, Squaw Tits unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 45 miles south of Phoenix. The rugged mountainous terrain is dominated by 4,365-foot Table Top Mountain. Bajadas and their complex drainages surround the core of the unit. Vegetation is primarily palo verde and saguaro, with riparian species like ironwood and mesquite along the washes. The unit is bounded by the Papago Indian Reservation, roads and a fence line.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed the entire unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the topography and vegetation of the unit do not provide adequate screening to create outstanding opportunities for solitude. While opportunities exist for primitive and unconfined recreation, they are not considered outstanding because the topography and effects from outside the unit tend to restrict and confine opportunities to the southern portion of the unit. All 46,363 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

This unit has received a large amount of public comment. All the comments received, with the exception of two letters, disagreed with the BLM proposal. Numerous letters, some very detailed, and one complete with photos, specifically addressed the unit's outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. These comments took issue with the subjective criteria BLM used to evaluate these opportunities, especially questioning the emphasis given to outside sights and sounds.

The unit's proposed boundaries were also criticized, especially pulling back the boundary along the northern part of the unit. This modification was considered by many to be over-zealous on the part of the BLM. Boundaries on the west and southwest sides of the unit also were inaccurate, according to several individuals, following fencelines or vehicle ways.

Numerous supplemental values were cited to be present in the unit, including exceptional botanical, zoological, and educational values.

Two commenters agreed with the BLM proposal to drop the unit, stating that the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria. They provided information questioning the unit's naturalness and roadlessness. These individuals also considered opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation to be less than outstanding because of inadequate screening and the effect of outside imprints.

Based on the substantive and specific comments that disagreed with the BLM proposal, this unit was field checked.

## BLM Decision

After a careful field review, we determined that the unit was natural and provided outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for solitude were considered exceptional. The outside impacts described in the intensive inventory report were determined not to be significant because they are screened by the unit's topography, relative size, and dense vegetation. The interesting terrain, coupled with the exceptional botanical, zoological, and scenic values present provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The man-made imprints that remain within the unit were determined not to adversely affect the naturalness of the unit.



The northern, southern, and western boundaries of the unit were checked for inconsistencies or errors. Only the northern boundary was modified. The southern boundary correctly follows a road and non-BLM property lines. There are problems with the western border in T.7S., R.1E., Secs. 23, 26, and 25. It follows an obscure and ill-defined vehicle way which is difficult to locate on the ground. We determined, however, that this is the best boundary available given the circumstances. If the boundary were adjusted westward to the vicinity of Vekol Wash, several fencelines, vehicle ways, and range improvements would be incorporated into the unit. In addition, a large portion of the Vekol Wash is on a private parcel. The present boundary excludes these imprints. Additional boundary modification in this area would best be considered during the study phase.

The northern boundary was modified extensively. We determined that the border as presently proposed was excessively drawn back from the unnatural areas because of sights and sounds along Interstate 10. The land is natural and offers similar opportunities found elsewhere in the unit. We are adding approximately 6,500 acres to the unit.

All vehicle route classifications within the unit were determined to be correct during our field check.

Because the unit does have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, the earlier proposal to drop the unit is reversed and the unit, with its modified boundaries, is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The Wilderness Study Area consists of 39,823 acres, while 5,723 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 2-175

#### Batamote Mountains

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in Pima County, 5 miles northeast of Ajo. It contains portions of three different mountain ranges, the Batamotes, the Saucedas, and the Sikort Chuapos. Vegetation primarily consists of a sparse palo verde and saguaro community with abundant creosote flats. The unit is bounded by Department of Defense lands, the Papago Indian Reservation, roads, and private lands.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed this unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because, although some good opportunities for solitude exist within the Batamote Mountains, they are not considered outstanding. The presence of the New Cornelia Mine adjacent to the unit is a significant impact which affects both the apparent naturalness of the area and also limits opportunities for solitude. The unit offers several opportunities for primitive recreation, but these are not outstanding. All 57,697 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.



## Summary of Public Comments

Numerous comments were received regarding this unit. All the comments except three disagreed with the BLM proposal. The three comments that agreed with the BLM proposal, including a detailed report complete with maps and photos from Phelps-Dodge Corporation, emphasized the numerous man-made imprints found within and surrounding the unit. The report listed and mapped 22 imprints within the unit and 9 substantial outside influences. The accumulation of these, the report indicated, limits the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The many comments which disagreed with the BLM proposal felt the unit does meet the wilderness criteria. Several commenters suggested an adjusted boundary could eliminate the effects of the New Cornelia, that in no way could the mine significantly affect 58,000 acres, and that the opportunities for solitude are outstanding. One commenter stated that the combination of topography, size, and the fact that it is bordered on three sides by defacto wilderness provides outstanding opportunities to find isolation. This combination also would provide outstanding primitive recreation opportunities. One commenter felt that any feasible boundary modifications that would mitigate the affect of the New Cornelia should be entertained in this phase, and that elimination of the entire unit largely on the basis of the mine is inappropriate at this time.

Based on the public comments received, this unit was field checked.

## BLM Decision

A field check of this unit concluded that an eastern portion of the unit, comprising 25,000 acres east of the crest of the Batamote Mountains, is not significantly affected by the New Cornelia Mine. This area, however, is adversely affected by the accumulation of two roads, 10 vehicle ways, 3 range improvements and 2 mineral exploration areas. The effect of these imprints, though many are singularly insignificant, is to limit one's opportunity for unconfined primitive recreation. The opportunities for solitude are good, but they cannot be said to be outstanding. Therefore, the Batamote Mountains are dropped from further consideration.

Unit No. 2-176

Sikort Chuapo Mountains

## Description of the Unit

This unit is in south-central Arizona 9 miles east of Ajo. It is composed of the northern extension of the Sikort Chuapo Mountains and the southern ridge of the Saucedo Mountains. The two ranges are separated by a small valley. The unit lies within the Lower-Sonoran life zone with Sonoran desert scrub vegetation. It is bounded by a pipeline road and right-of-way and the Papago Indian Reservation.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the entire unit undergo wilderness study because the complexity of terrain, topographic and vegetative screening, and a variety of interesting features combine to provide the visitor with opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. All 10,665 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

An exceptional number of comments have been received on this unit. Many comments supported wilderness study for this unit. Even more comments, however, disagreed with the BLM proposal, including a detailed report submitted by Phelps Dodge Corporation. The many supportive comments varied from general statements to specific accounts of the commenters' visits to the unit. Several commenters stated the unit undoubtedly meets the wilderness requirements. Their rationale included the complexity of the peaks, ridges, cliff faces, valleys and basins. Also they cited the dense saguaro-palo verde community with organ pipe cactus intermixed, and the abundance of wildlife, and finally the scenic beauty of the unit itself. Additionally, a few commenters felt the effects of the Air Force Gunnery Range and the New Cornelia Mine were not significant, and that the vehicle ways identified by the BLM were indeed vehicle ways, unmaintained and insignificant.

The numerous comments disagreeing with the previous BLM proposal had one overriding concern: the residents of Ajo do not want any more nearby land subject to government restrictions. The commenters over and over stated they were "boxed in," being surrounded by the Air Force Gunnery Range, Cabeza Prieta Game Refuge, Papago Indian Reservation, and Organ Pipe National Monument, all lands with various restrictions on use.

Many commenters felt they did not need "two Organ Pipe National Monuments," that all the opportunities available in Sikort Chuapo are available to a greater degree 10 miles south at Organ Pipe National Monument. Several commenters who made the comparison between Sikort Chuapo and Organ Pipe National Monument recognized that Sikort Chuapo was wild, and provided outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

The majority of the local comments indicated the unit did not meet the wilderness criteria because, first it is not roadless, that there are five roads within this unit. Four of these roads access popular camp-picnic sites and one accesses a Game and Fish catchment. The Phelps Dodge report stated that the four roads to camp sites do not meet the "very strict" BLM definition of a road, however, "they are roads in a very real sense and are evidence of existing use and indicate residents should have continued access." Additionally, the report supplied four sworn affidavits stating the five roads are substantially noticeable.



Secondly, comments said the unit is not natural because of cumulative man-made intrusions: the five roads, Game and Fish catchment, camp sites, an abandoned mine, and outside impacts of the Pipeline Road, New Cornelia Mine and the Gunnery Range. All of these impacts cumulatively made the area unnatural.

A few commenters felt the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude. There are a large number of people using the area, which would not allow one to feel any solitude. Comments also said the inhospitable desert is not a good place to hike because it lacks water.

An additional overriding message from the local comments was that the people of Ajo need a place for recreational activities, hunting, rock-hounding, camping, and picnicking, and that the Sikort Chuapos area is their favorite. The residents of Ajo and Why have used the area for years and feel they have taken very good care of the land, and that the restriction of vehicles would eliminate all the present uses of the area.

Based on the comments received, a field check was undertaken to verify imprints and evaluate apparent naturalness.

#### BLM Decision

A field check of Sikort Chuapo showed our proposal to be correct. The five "roads" mentioned by numerous commenters are vehicle ways, as they are not maintained by mechanical means to insure regular and continuous use. The abandoned mine could not be located. The impacts of the Gunnery Range, Pipeline Road and New Cornelia Mine were determined to be minimal.

The concern about vehicular access to the Game and Fish catchment will be addressed in the study phase. The special landlocked or "boxed in" situation of Ajo is recognized and will be of great concern in the study phase, as will the recreational needs of the residents of Ajo and Why. The comparison of natural features, recreational activities, and solitude between Sikort Chuapo and Organ Pipe National Monument is also a consideration of the study phase.

Sikort Chuapo is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

It should be noted that during the study phase vehicular access along existing roads, ways, and wash bottoms would only be limited if extreme use were causing irreparable damage. Therefore, all existing uses will continue.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 5 miles north of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. It is composed of an eastern portion of the Valley of the Ajo and the northern half of the Pozo Redondo Mountains. The valley is a small alluvial plain surrounded by small volcanic ranges. The plain supports a creosote and bursage community while the mountains support a sparse palo verde and saguaro community. The unit is bounded by the Papago Indian Reservation on the east, by a road on the north, Highway 85 on the west, and by private land on the south.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not outstanding because of the unit's poor vegetative screening and limited topography. All 19,890 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

Two comments were received on this unit. An extensive report was submitted by Phelps Dodge Corporation in Ajo, complete with maps and photos. It agreed with the BLM proposal. The other comment disagreed with the BLM recommendation, saying the unit was natural and offered outstanding opportunities, though the commenter was not specific as to why these opportunities were outstanding. This comment also cited supplemental archaeological values.

BLM Decision

No comments reasonably questioned the BLM proposal, therefore the Pozo Redondo Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 10 miles southwest of Superior and is bounded on the north and west by roads and on the south and east by private land. The topography is complex with canyons dissecting steep mountains. A road bisects this unit leaving two areas less than 5,000 acres in size.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it is primarily unnatural and does not meet the size criteria. All 8,660 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.



## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received on this unit. All comments but one agreed with the BLM proposal. The one disagreeing commenter felt the area could serve as a buffer zone to uncontrolled urban sprawl. The comment did not address the wilderness criteria.

## BLM Decision

No public comment specifically addressed the wilderness criteria. The Minerals Mountains will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-187

## White Canyon

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Mineral Mountains, 45 miles southeast of Mesa. It consists of a small, rugged portion of the Mineral Mountains with a small portion of an outwash plain to the south. Topographically the unit consists of a portion of a large hill-covered mesa dissected by deep canyons, most notably White Canyon, as well as numerous narrow side canyons and draws. South of the mesa the unit consists of an outwash plain with numerous sandy washes.

Vegetation primarily includes palo verde and saguaro, desert grassland, open chaparral, desert scrub riparian, and cottonwood-willow.

The unit is bounded to the north by the Tonto National Forest. Roads, and state and private lands form the borders elsewhere.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit which is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because the unit's topographic complexity and dense vegetative screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as various types of primitive and unconfined recreation. Five acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration, and the remaining 6,970 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

This unit has received considerable public comment, including extensive reports submitted by Kennecott Minerals, American Smelting and Refining Co. (ASARCO), Bear Creek Mining Company, and the Sierra Club. All the comments received, with the exception of the three mining interests and a grazing lessee's letter, agreed with the BLM proposal.

Numerous comments specifically addressed the unit's naturalness and the opportunities for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation available. Many lengthy descriptions of the unit's scenic beauty, riparian vegetation, geologic formations, abundant wildlife and seasonal water supply were submitted by the commenters. The comments concluded that all those features provided outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.



The detailed reports supplied by the mining interests included maps and photos. Billing receipts for road and exploratory drilling work completed were supplied by Kennecott. These reports contend that some routes identified as vehicle ways by the BLM are actually roads in that they were constructed and are maintained. The documentation, however, showed only one route within the unit received maintenance on two occasions--and this was for one-time drilling. The reports indicated the unit has mineral potential. It is close to known ore bodies and there is a likelihood of extensive future development less than one mile from the unit's boundary limiting wilderness characteristics.

Additionally, the reports concluded that the evidence of grazing, the presence of range improvements, and significant outside impacts (blasting at Ray Mine, view of smelter stacks and dumps, and the Southern Pacific Railroad) detract from the naturalness and solitude necessary for Congressionally-designated wilderness.

The comment from the grazing lessee indicated that several routes in the north half of the unit accessing range improvements are roads as they would be maintained when needed or as time permitted. Also the commenter felt the unit's elbow configuration would hinder the unit's manageability.

Based on the substantive public comments and information provided, this unit was field checked.

#### BLM Decision

After careful field verification we determined the unit to be natural. It provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The outside impacts discussed by the reports are mitigated by the unit's extreme terrain, isolation, and distance from the impacts. The topography, vegetation, and wildlife provided an outstanding opportunity for primitive recreation.

All the vehicle ways located appeared to be unmaintained, revegetating, eroding and some barely visible. One route in section 12, mentioned by the grazing lessee, we determined to be a vehicle way. The route is a highly visible scar, however, compromising the immediate area, therefore we "cherrystemmed" the way from the unit. It constitutes a significant impact. The one route for which Kennecott provided invoices for maintenance in 1972 and 1976 does not appear to be maintained to insure regular and continuous use. The way apparently was maintained for only one-time uses and therefore does not constitute a road by BLM's definition in the "Wilderness Inventory Handbook."

The probability of future mineral development in the area is a concern that will be considered in the study phase, as will the question of the unit's shape.

White Canyon is established as a Wilderness Study Area of 6,968 acres. Two acres are deleted for the cherrystem of one-half mile in section 12.



Description of the Unit

This unit is two miles west of Kearney in east-central Pinal County. The unit is comprised solely of the Tortilla Mountains with the topography characterized by rounded ridges and peaks that drop off to small basins, open drainages, and canyons. The vegetation within the unit includes a palo verde and saguaro community, a desert scrub and riparian community, and an arid grassland community. The boundary of the unit is formed by roads, and state and private lands.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be eliminated from further wilderness consideration because the openness of the unit, the lack of topographic screening, and the imposing outside imprints like the open-pit Ray Mine and Hayden smelter smoke stack, all combine to detract from opportunities for solitude. While opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation occur, they are not considered outstanding because of the unit's small size, odd configuration, and lack of topographic diversity. All 5,030 acres were proposed to be dropped from wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received on this unit. All the comments agreed with the BLM proposal.

BLM Decision

No comments either generally or specifically questioned the BLM proposal, therefore the Tortilla Mountains are dropped from further consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is 16 miles south of Casa Grande. It consists of a series of rugged north-south trending volcanic peaks. Vegetation includes a sparse-to-moderate palo verde community. There are also impressive stands of saguaro and cholla. The unit is bounded by state land and a powerline on the west, and elsewhere by a mixture of state and private land.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the rugged nature of the unit's mountains combined with good vegetative screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. All 11,900 acres were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

This unit was the subject of considerable public attention. An exceptional number of comments were received. Three organizations or clubs supplied detailed reports on this unit complete with maps and photos. The majority of the comments indicated this unit does not meet the wilderness criteria, that man's imprint is found throughout this unit, and that the cumulative effect of those imprints limits one's opportunities for both recreation and solitude. Many commenters, including two of the reports, indicated the unit was in fact not roadless, that several routes determined to be vehicle ways in BLM's inventory were roads used heavily by miners, ranchers, and recreationalists. Several comments did support wilderness study for this unit. Those commenters felt the unit was roadless, natural, and that the imprints of man were minimized by the nature of the terrain allowing one the opportunity for outstanding recreation or solitude.

The specificity and number of comments received required us to field check the information we received.

## BLM Decision

We made a careful field examination to verify the comments received on this unit. The unit's naturalness, roadlessness, and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were checked.

We determined that a portion of the unit was not natural, containing imprints that were substantially noticeable. Additionally, two imprints were located that had not been documented in the intensive inventory. These imprints were found in the northwestern portion of the unit. A large mineral excavation site was identified in T.9S., R.6E., section 16, NE1/4 SW1/4. Deep trenches and long scrapes severely disturbed over 40 acres of hilly terrain. Two mine shafts were also found in T.9S., R.6E., section 15, SW 1/4 SW 1/4. We determined that the cumulative impact of all the mineral activity in this portion of the unit, along with other imprints documented during the intensive inventory, renders this portion of the unit unnatural and necessitates a boundary modification that excludes approximately 800 acres.

The accumulation of imprints elsewhere in the unit, though noticeable at times, is not significant enough to adversely affect the apparent naturalness of the remainder of the unit.

After vehicle ways within the unit were field checked, we determined that portions of two of these routes were roads. One of these roads, 0.2 mile in length, accessed a water catchment in T.9S., R.6E., section 26. This road was bladed upon construction and receives regular and continuous use. We made a minor boundary modification to exclude this road.



The vehicle way entering the unit in T.9S., R.6E., section 16, was determined to be a road for 1.6 miles along its western fork, being regularly used and maintained up to a prospect pit in T.9S., R.6E., section 21, SE 1/4 NE 1/4. The first 1.4 miles of this route is within the unnatural area excluded from the unit and previously described above. The remaining 0.2 miles of road were excluded from the unit by a "cherry system" boundary modification.

All other vehicle routes were determined to be vehicle ways, maintained only by the passage of vehicular traffic. Some of these routes were constructed by machinery sometime in the past, however this alone does not qualify a vehicle route to be classified as a road.

While portions of the unit remain in an essentially natural condition, the cumulative and confining effects of the unnatural areas and scattered imprints limit opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. While there are some opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of man, the unit lacks an extensive interior where man's works can truly be avoided. Opportunities for primitive recreation, including hiking, rock climbing, and photography are good, but not exceptional. This coupled with the confining aspect of the unit's limited and isolated natural areas make opportunities for primitive recreation less than outstanding.

Therefore, the proposal to make the Sawtooth Mountains a Wilderness Study Area is reversed, and the unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 2-194

#### Picacho Mountains

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is in southern Pinal County, 3 miles north of Picacho State Park. It contains nearly the entire north Picacho Mountain range. The unit's western side features steep and concealed canyons highlighted by spires and sheer rock faces. The eastern half of the unit features open canyons and more gentle rises to the ridgeline. Vegetation includes palo verde and saguaro. The unit is bounded entirely by state land.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the entire unit undergo wilderness study because opportunities for solitude are outstanding in the unit because of excellent screening provided by the area's rugged topography and dense vegetation. A sufficiently wide variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are available to the visitor, which together render them outstanding. We proposed all 6,400 acres for wilderness study.

### Summary of Public Comments

This unit received many comments from the public. All but two commenters agreed with the BLM proposal. The two disagreements contended that the unit's proximity to Interstate 10 and the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the ability to view agricultural lands and the towns of Picacho and Eloy from within the unit, precluded one's opportunity for a wilderness experience. Several other comments stated that after hiking the unit they felt the outside impacts did not significantly affect their opportunities for recreation or solitude.

### BLM Decision

The public comments did not, generally or specifically, contradict the BLM proposal. The Picacho Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 2-196

West Silver Bell Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in north Pima County, 22 miles west of Marana. It includes the eastern end of the West Silver Bell Mountains. The topography is characterized by several small peaks clustered in the center of the unit, and rolling foothills blending into the Aguirre Valley and Santa Cruz Flats. A well-developed palo verde and saguaro community is the primary vegetative cover. The unit is bounded by state land, the Papago Indian Reservation, and by roads.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. The opportunities for solitude are not considered outstanding in the unit because of only fair vegetative screening and a lack of topographic complexity. The unit does provide some opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, but the area's lack of complexity, slight elevation change, and general lack of large open spaces limits these activities and makes them less than outstanding. All 10,500 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received concerning this unit. The commenters disagreed with the BLM proposal, stating that there are opportunities for recreation and solitude. The comments were mostly unspecific and did not indicate if the opportunities were outstanding.

### BLM Decision

The few comments received did not provide information requiring a field check. The West Silver Bell Mountains will be dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Description of the Unit

This unit is 33 miles northwest of Tucson. It includes Ragged Peak, a precipitous, broken, volcanic dome, and the northeastern portion of the Silver Bell Mountains. The unit is bounded by a road and a mixture of state and private land.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped because it does not meet the size criterion. Also, the small size, the number of large-scale intrusions in the vicinity, and the presence of human activity in the area limit the opportunities for solitude. The recreational value of the unit lies in the wide diversity of opportunities available in such a small area. With its many opportunities the unit offers outstanding recreation potential. All 8,400 acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received on this unit. All comments disagreed with the BLM proposal, indicating an overwhelming support for a study area of under 5,000 acres. Many comments detailed the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and for solitude. The commenters cited the exceptionally lush Sonoran Desert vegetation, rugged features of Ragged Peak, and excellent wildlife populations as providing outstanding wilderness qualities. The comments also stressed the presence of desert bighorn sheep.

BLM Decision

The public comment shows apparent strong public support for a wilderness study area of under 5,000 acres and the unit does appear to be manageable. Our reevaluation of the unit concurred with the public response. We reversed our earlier proposal, and Ragged Top is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The Wilderness Study Area consists of 4,460 acres while 4,020 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is in north-central Pima County, 28 miles west northwest of Tucson. It consists of the Pan Quemado Range, its surrounding bajada, and portions of Aguirre Valley. The vegetation includes palo verde and saguaro, with creosote flats and desert scrub in the bajadas. State and private lands, and a road form the unit's boundary.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be dropped from wilderness consideration because the lack of vegetative screening and open terrain limit opportunities for solitude. While primitive recreation opportunities exist, they are not considered outstanding. All 11,870 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

No comments were received concerning this unit.

### BLM Decision

As the BLM proposal was not questioned, Pan Quemado is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 2-200

### Roskrige Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 24 miles west of Tucson. It consists of small, rugged hills and buttes with associated bajadas. The unit has dense plant cover, and is dominated by ironwood, mesquite, palo verde, catclaw, and saguaro.

The unit is bounded by the Papago Indian Reservation, by state and private land, and by a road.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because although it appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man substantially unnoticeable, the lack of topographic diversity, combined with the small size of the unit, severely limits the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. All 7,700 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review.

### Summary of Public Comments

Only two general comments were received on this unit. Both disagreed with the BLM proposal. One commenter felt wilderness would function as a buffer to urban sprawl. The other commenter thought the area was outstanding despite its small size and proximity to a large city.

### BLM Decision

No comments addressed our application of BLM wilderness criteria to this unit. Therefore, the Roskrige Mountains are dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Description of the Unit

This unit is in central Pima County, 40 miles southwest of Tucson. The Coyote Mountains are characterized by rugged peaks, massive rounded bluffs, and sheer cliff faces. Within the 3,500-foot elevation change several vegetative communities representing the Lower and Upper Sonoran life zones are present. The unit is bounded by the Papago Indian Reservation and by state land.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is in an essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study because the screening provided by the unit's rugged topography and chaparral vegetation combine to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. These topographic and vegetative characteristics also create a great variety of outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Three acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration and 5,080 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received, all supporting wilderness study of this unit. The comments cited the many outstanding recreational opportunities and opportunities for solitude available. One commenter suggested access needs to be improved as state lands to the east are closed by gates.

BLM Decision

No public comments questioned the previous BLM proposal either generally or specifically. Therefore, Coyote Mountains are established as a Wilderness Study Area. Access to the unit will be considered in the study phase.

Description of the Unit

During the intensive inventory we determined that Unit 2-203 is actually two distinct parcels separated by approximately 0.4 miles of state land. The north parcel is hereafter referred to as Unit 2-203A. Baboquivari Peak itself is in the south parcel, which is unit 2-203B. Unit 2-203A is less than 5,000 acres in size.

The unit is in central Pima County, 50 miles southwest of Tucson. This north part of the unit comprises the east side the main mountain ridge. This main ridge runs in a semi-circle, with several draws converging in a bowl at the base of the ridge. The vegetation consists of desert scrub types. Very sparse desert scrub caps the ridgeline and southern exposures.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit be eliminated from further wilderness consideration because the gentle aspect of the range, sparse vegetation, and the uniformity of terrain provide only marginal opportunities for solitude. The unit's small size, lack of physiographic integrity, and absence of unique features make opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation less than outstanding. All 2,370 acres were proposed to be dropped from further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were submitted on this unit. All the comments disagreed with the BLM proposal. One commenter felt the area should be wilderness to provide partial protection from grazing, and one commenter felt 2-203A should be combined with 2-202, the Coyote Mountains. A commenter did feel a wilderness experience was available despite its topographic character and lack of rugged features.

## BLM Decision

The one commenter was apparently not aware grazing is allowed in wilderness areas. The second commenter addressed an impossibility as 2-203A and 2-202 are separated by six miles of Indian Reservation lands and state land. The number and specificity of comments received did not substantiate a change in the BLM proposal. Therefore, Baboquivari Peak North is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 2-203B

## Baboquivari Peak South

### Description of the Unit

During the intensive inventory we determined that Unit 2-203 is actually two distinct parcels separated by approximately 0.4 miles of state land. The north parcel is hereafter referred to as Unit 2-203A. Baboquivari Peak itself is in the south parcel, which is unit 2-203B.

This unit is in central Pima County, 50 miles southwest of Tucson. The sharp rise of Baboquivari Peak dominates the unit and is covered with dense growths of palo verde, saguaro, and chaparral plants at the lower elevations; and oak, mahogany, walnut, and pinyon at the moister, higher elevations.

The unit is bounded by the Papago Indian Reservation on the west, and a mixture of state and private lands elsewhere.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the entire unit undergo wilderness study because, although this modified unit does not meet the 5,000-acre size criterion, it was appropriate that the unit undergo wilderness study because of the strong public support and recognition that it had received in the past. All 2,065 acres have been proposed for wilderness review.



## Summary of Public Comments

The many comments received on this unit confirmed its popularity with the public. All comments supported further wilderness study. Nearly all the commenters stressed the significance of the Baboquivari Peak as a landmark and the outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude it provided, despite the unit being less than 5,000 acres.

## BLM Decision

No public comments questioned the previous BLM proposal, while significant numbers of comments showed support for a Wilderness Study Area of under 5,000 acres. Baboquivari Peak South is therefore established as a Wilderness Study Area.

## Unit No. 2-204

## Black Mountains-Ives Peak

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 24 miles northwest of Wickenburg. It contains a six-mile-long portion of the Black Mountains. Along the northern and eastern boundaries of the unit is a prominent ridgeline containing many canyons.

Several small isolated hills dot the landscape to the south and west of the main ridgeline. The south-central part of the unit is a bajada.

Vegetation within the unit varies with terrain features and aspect. The bajada supports a Joshua tree-creosote community while the higher ridge supports a desert grassland.

The unit is bounded on the north and east by private land. The southern boundary is drawn along the approved right-of-way application for a new road. The western boundary has been redrawn along natural terrain features in order to eliminate the effects of an extremely imposing view of the Anderson Mine outside the unit.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the natural portions of the unit undergo wilderness study because, despite the substantially unnoticeable water developments, mineral prospects, and vehicle ways, the unit is essentially natural and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. It was proposed that 1,560 acres be dropped from further consideration and that 9,875 acres be studied further.

## Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received on unit 2-204. Nearly all the comments supported the recommendation to study this unit further. One commenter felt the unit did not provide outstanding opportunities for recreation or solitude, however the commenter did not give rationale for the statement. One commenter suggested acquisition of adjacent state lands to improve the unit's natural integrity. Also it was brought to the BLM's attention that a discrepancy in the unit's boundary occurred along the approved Anderson Mine right-of-way, incorrectly portraying the right-of-way as part of the unit.

## BLM Decision

No comments received reasonably questioned the previous BLM proposal. Therefore, Black Mountains-Ives Peak unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area. The boundary is being modified in the unit's southwest corner—section 22 (T.11N., R.9W) and section 24 (T.11N., R.10W)—to follow a vehicle way which is the BLM-approved right-of-way for the Anderson Mine. This modification deletes 200 acres south of the right-of-way, bringing the total acres established as a Wilderness Study Area to 9,675. The question of land acquisition is more appropriately addressed in the study phase.

Unit No. 2-205

Tres Alamos

## Description of the Unit

This unit is 30 miles northwest of Wickenburg in the Black Mountains. Vegetation in the unit includes grasses, palo verde, saguaro, Joshua trees, and creosote. The unit is bounded by roads, and state and private lands. The northern boundary is drawn along the approved right-of-way for a new road.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit that is essentially natural undergo wilderness study because the complexity of topography in the Black Mountains allows outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities also exist for several types of primitive and unconfined recreation, but these are not considered outstanding because of the unit's small size and lack of recreation activity diversity. Twenty-five acres were proposed to be dropped from further consideration and 8,910 acres were proposed for wilderness review.

## Summary of Public Comments

Several public comments were received on this unit. All comments supported further wilderness study for the unit. The comments cited the unit's various opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

## BLM Decision

No public comments, generally or specifically, questioned the previous BLM proposal. Therefore, Tres Alamos is established as a Wilderness Study Area.



## SAFFORD DISTRICT

Unit No. 4-1A

Needle's Eye

### Description of the Unit

This unit is fifteen miles southeast of Globe. The terrain slopes to the south. The topography includes the steep-walled, rugged canyon of the Gila River as well as numerous side-canyons. The vegetation varies between riparian species along the rivers and creeks, and desert shrubs and grasses on the ridges. Elevation ranges from about 2,400 to 4,500 feet.

### BLM Proposal

Roads divided unit 4-1 into three units, 4-1A, 4-1B, and 4-1C. Two of these units, 1A of 10,020 acres and 1B of 7,140 acres, were proposed as Wilderness Study Areas. Unit 1C of 4,940 acres, was proposed to be dropped.

We proposed Needle's Eye be established as a Wilderness Study Area because the 10,020 acres contained the required wilderness characteristics.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments agreed with the proposal. Several comments mentioned the impacts of the powerline in the unit and Christmas Mine outside the unit. General comments were also received.

### BLM Decision

The powerline was reevaluated and found to still be substantially unnoticeable. Christmas Mine cannot be seen from most of the unit. However, in the southwest corner of the unit there is an area where the visual impact of the Christmas Mine is very significant. About 535 acres are seriously impacted and are dropped from the unit. The remainder of the unit, totalling about 9,485 acres, is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-1B

Mescal Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is fourteen miles south of Globe. The terrain slopes to the southwest. The topography rises gently from rolling hills to the crest of the Mescal Mountains. The vegetation is primarily desert shrubs and grasses. Elevation ranges from 2,380 to 5,139 feet.

### BLM Proposal

Roads divided unit 4-1 into three units, 4-1A, 4-1B, and 4-1C. Two of these units, 1A of 10,020 acres and 1B of 7,140 acres, were proposed as Wilderness Study Areas. Unit 1C of 4,940 acres, was proposed to be dropped.

We proposed Mescal Mountains be established as a Wilderness Study Area because the 7,140 acres contained the required wilderness characteristics.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments on the proposal were mixed. Many of the comments agreeing with the proposal were not specific. Several comments addressed the impact of Christmas Mine on the unit's naturalness and outstanding opportunity criteria.

#### BLM Decision

After careful reevaluation, it was determined that the Christmas Mine did have an overwhelming impact upon this unit. The unit slopes toward the mine and most views include it. The imprint of man is the dominant sight in the unit. All 7,140 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.

#### Unit No. 4-1C

#### El Capitan

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is thirteen miles south of Globe. The topography includes rolling hills, numerous small canyons, and a small mountainous area. The vegetation varies between desert shrubs and grasses at lower elevations, and mountain shrubs and pine forest at higher elevations. Elevations range from 2,400 to 6,564 feet.

#### BLM Proposal

Roads divided unit 4-1 into three units, 4-1A, 4-1B, and 4-1C. Two of these units, 1A of 10,020 acres and 1B of 7,140 acres, were proposed as Wilderness Study Areas. Unit 1C of 4,940 acres, was proposed to be dropped.

We proposed to drop El Capitan from further wilderness review due to its small size and lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments on the proposal, though few in number, agreed with dropping the area.

#### BLM Decision

All comments received supported the proposal. All 4,940 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.



Unit No. 4-4

Zapata Wash

Description of the Unit

This unit is three miles north of Mammoth. The vegetation is predominantly desert shrub. The topography slopes gently to the west into the San Pedro River Valley. The elevation varies from 2,250 to 2,950 feet.

BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped. All 6,360 acres were determined to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments received agreed the unit did not possess wilderness values.

BLM Decision

Public comment supported our proposal. All 6,360 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 4-8

Black Rock

Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles south of Bylas. The topography is rugged mountainous terrain ranging from 3500 to 5900 feet. Jackson Mountain and Black Rock are predominant features in the unit. The slope is varied due to numerous canyons. The vegetation varies from broadleaf riparian to desert shrubs and grasses to mountain shrubs.

BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area. During the intensive inventory, 8,492 acres were found to possess wilderness characteristics and 128 acres were eliminated in the northeast of the unit due to a 0.75 mile road and mining activity.

Summary of Public Comments

Most comments supported the proposal. Comments were received addressing the boundary road, the 0.75 mile access road and mine, range improvements and private property and their effect on the wilderness values. Many general comments not addressing inventory criteria were also received.

## BLM Decision

Public comment did not question the proposal. The physical impact of the small mining operation and the range improvements and the private property are substantially unnoticeable. The entire unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-9

Ashurst

### Description of the Unit

This unit is three miles south of Ft. Thomas. The terrain is basically flat, sloping slightly north towards the Gila River Valley. The vegetation consists primarily of sparse creosote and snakeweed. The elevation varies from approximately 3,400 to 2,700 feet.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration. All 11,506 acres intensively inventoried were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Comments received agreed the unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Another comment stated the unit was not in a natural condition.

## BLM Decision

The comments received did not question the proposal. All 11,506 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.

Unit No. 4-10/11

Bear Springs Flat

### Description of the Unit

This unit is two miles west of Pima. The topography consists of a flat plain with numerous washes surrounded by a plateau. The elevation varies from 3,700 feet gradually sloping north to 2,800 feet. The vegetation is predominantly sparse desert shrub.

### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration, since all 19,989 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



## Summary of Public Comments

Comments received agreed the unit does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation. They also stated the unit is not in a natural condition. Other general comments were also received.

## BLM Decision

Public comment supports our proposal. The entire 19,989 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 4-13

## Diamond Bar

## Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Gila Mountains north of Ft. Thomas. The topography varies from wash-cut alluvial plains in the south to mountains and canyons in the north. The elevation climbs from 3,100 feet in the south to 4,700 feet in the north. The unit has several major canyons. The vegetation is broadleaf riparian, desert, and mountain shrubs.

## BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to become a Wilderness Study Area. The five abandoned roads near the unit boundary, along with range improvements, were judged to be substantially unnoticeable. The topographic screening also serves to lessen the impacts of the range improvements. We proposed all 6,240 acres for further study.

## Summary of Public Comments

A clear consensus of comments said the existence of roads and range improvements in the unit made it unnatural. One comment stated the five abandoned roads identified in the intensive inventory met the definition of a road due to past maintenance and relatively regular use. Four additional vehicle routes were also pointed out.

Comments supporting the proposal were general in nature and did not specifically address the unit. Other general comments were also received.

## BLM Decision

Public comments led us to make a field check. We verified one additional road and a one-mile extension of a road found during the inventory. These two roads penetrate the interior of the unit and increase the cumulative impacts to a point where the imprints of man's work are substantially noticeable. Our proposal is reversed and all 6,240 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Gila Mountains ten miles north of Ft. Thomas. The topography varies from gently-sloping alluvial plains to steep mountainous terrain with numerous valleys. The elevation varies from 3,700 to 6,600 feet. The vegetation varies from broadleaf riparian to desert shrubs and grasslands, to mountain shrubs and pinyon and juniper forests.

BLM Proposal

During the intensive inventory, we found 20,600 acres with wilderness characteristics, while 12,033 acres were dropped due to unnaturalness. The western boundary was proposed to be changed to a road that has several range improvements along it. The Fishhook Well Road was proposed to be left as a "cherry stem" into the unit. This unit is very rugged and diverse with extensive topographic screening which reduces the impact of the Fishhook Well Road and range improvements along with the boundary road.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments supporting the proposal were received. All these comments were general in nature and did not specifically address the unit.

Comments which specifically addressed the unit opposed the proposal and concentrated on seven areas of unnaturalness in the unit. These are:

- 1) Diamond Bar Ranch. A stocktank, windmill, two houses, one barn, one "way" and an old line shack were left in the proposed Wilderness Study Area. These are all part of the Diamond Bar Ranch complex.
- 2) A road paralleling the south side of Sam Canyon.
- 3) A "way" from Fishhook Well Road to Upper Fishhook Canyon.
- 4) The Fishhook Well Road itself and associated range improvements, which were said to detract from naturalness of the unit.
- 5) A road from Day Mine Windmill to Natural Corral Windmill.
- 6) The eastern arm of the unit, where it was said there was a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined types of recreation due to unavoidable views of the boundary road.
- 7) Range improvements associated with the boundary road were said to render the unit unnatural.



## BLM Decision

Reconsideration of the proposal resulted from the specific information received.

- 1) Diamond Bar Ranch. Most improvements associated with this ranch are excluded by a 154-acre boundary adjustment. The old line shack remains in the unit. This small building has a very minor effect.
- 2) The road paralleling the south side of Sam Canyon is not receiving regular use or maintenance, is slowly returning to a natural condition, and does not meet the definition of a road. This short spur is in a canyon with heavy riparian and oak coverage making it substantially unnoticeable.
- 3) The way from Fishhook Well Road to Upper Fishhook Canyon does not meet the definition of a road and is substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole.
- 4) The Fishhook Well Road was reevaluated and judged to detract from naturalness in the unit. The unit boundary is adjusted to use this road as the western boundary, to its terminal point at Lower Fishhook Tank No. 2. The new boundary then continues south along the boundary of sections 9 and 10, T.3S R.23E, to Dutch Pasture Tank where the original boundary is picked up. This removes 1,242 acres from the unit.
- 5) The "road" pointed out from Day Mine Windmill to Natural Corral Windmill does not meet the definition of a road. The western end of it is inaccessible, it is overgrown, and has obviously received no past maintenance or use. However, even though it is a "way," it still affects naturalness and now is a portion of the southern boundary. Two short routes to rock dams were found in conjunction with this way during the field check. These two additional ways remain in the unit because they are returning to a natural condition. This new boundary eliminates 1,677 acres from the unit.
- 6) The eastern arm of the unit is narrow and provides a view of the boundary road from roughly 80% of the arm. Under the authority of "Organic Act Directive No. 78-61, Change 3," the narrow finger of roadless land extending outside the bulk of the unit may be excluded. About 2,514 acres are dropped under this authority.
- 7) The majority of the range improvements associated with the boundary road are also removed by the boundary adjustments. The unit is very rugged and diverse, and the remaining boundary road improvements are not considered substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

These adjustments eliminate 5,587 acres from the unit. The remaining 15,013 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

This unit is six miles northeast of Ft. Thomas. The terrain includes foothills, cliffs, and the crest of the rugged Gila Mountains. The elevation ranges between about 3,680 feet and 6,444 feet. The unit slopes to the southwest. The vegetation varies from desert shrubs and grasses at lower elevations to mountain shrubs and pinyon and juniper forest at higher elevations.

BLM Proposal

A portion of the unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area. About 12,176 acres in the southern part of the unit were found to be unnatural and affected by the imprints of man. This area was proposed to be dropped. Another 16,639 acres in essentially natural condition was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area.

Summary of Public Comments

Most comments supported our proposal. A few comments stated that range improvements and roads affected the unit's naturalness. A comment stated that outside sights and sounds affected solitude. A number of general comments were also received.

BLM Decision

The roads and range improvement were judged to be substantially unnoticeable. The outside sights and sounds have only a very minor impact on the unit. Public comments did not question our proposal, therefore 16,639 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Gila Mountains ten miles north of Pima. The vegetation varies from broadleaf riparian to desert shrubs and grasses, to mountain shrubs, pinyon pine, and juniper. The topography is steep and mountainous with a varied slope. The elevation varies from 3,400 to 5,400 feet. Six short "cherrystem" roads penetrate the unit.

BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed as a Wilderness Study Area. During the intensive inventory, 6,984 acres were found to possess wilderness characteristics and 802 acres were proposed to be dropped because of a road cutting off the northern arm, and by unnaturalness in the south of the unit.



### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments on the proposal said the "cherrystemmed" and other roads and range improvements detracted from naturalness. Other comments said that the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation were less than outstanding. One "way" was said to be a road. Comments supporting the proposal were general in nature or did not specifically address the unit.

### BLM Decision

Public comments caused us to reconsider the application of the naturalness and outstanding opportunity criteria. After a field check and reevaluation, we judged the roads to be a substantially noticeable imprint of man's work in this narrow unit. The southwest extension of the unit has roads on three sides. The topography causes these roads to be a predominant feature from most places in this extension. In the remainder of the unit, roads and range improvements are unavoidable imprints of man's work due to their penetration of the interior. The unit as a whole, therefore, is not natural in character. The roads were determined to have a significant effect on opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. All 7,786 acres in the unit are dropped from further wilderness review.

### Unit No. 4-20

### Johnny Spring

### Description of the Unit

This unit is on the upper slopes of the Gila Mountains, ten miles northeast of Safford. The vegetation changes from desert shrubs and grasses to mountain shrubs and pinyon and juniper forests. The topography includes steep mountains, gentle hills, and washes. The elevation varies from 3,800 feet near Bonita Creek, to 6,400 feet near Bryce Mountain.

### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area. During the intensive inventory all 8,382 acres were found to possess wilderness characteristics.

### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments received disagreed with our proposal. They stated the unit contains roads; was unnatural due to these roads, mining activity, and range improvements; and did not meet the outstanding opportunity criteria. Several comments pointed out additional roads in the southwestern portion of the unit. Others identified two roads in the eastern portion of the unit that bisected it. Many other comments were received both supporting and opposing the proposal.

### BLM Decision

Public comments caused a careful reconsideration of the proposal.

The southwestern portion of the unit was determined to be unnatural due to the presence of five additional roads pointed out by public comment, a known way, and associated range improvements. These imprints of man bisect a portion of this area and penetrate deeply into the remainder. The evidence of man is difficult to avoid in this portion of the unit.

The northeastern portion of the unit is also heavily affected by the imprint of man. This area is very narrow, roughly one mile wide in places. Within this area three roads, a way, and associated range improvements affect naturalness. A road to Johnny Spring penetrates this narrow portion of the unit and leads to a range improvement. A route from Johnny Creek to Brushy Creek was determined to be two "cherrystemmed" roads that penetrate the area. These cherrystems nearly bisect the unit. Between these cherrystems is a route, determined to be a "way," and an earthen reservoir. These roads, the way, and earthen reservoir produce an area of unnaturalness that bisects the unit.

Within the southeastern portion of the unit, man's works are also present. In this area, range improvements and a route, determined to be a "way," are present and affect the naturalness of this area.

The fourth area, in the northwestern portion of the unit, is in an essentially natural condition, but is less than 5,000 acres.

The majority of the unit is in an unnatural condition with roads, ways, and range improvements located throughout. All 8,382 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 4-22/23/24(A)

Gila Box

Description of the Unit

This unit is twenty miles northeast of Safford. The topography is dominated by the deep, rugged canyon of the Gila River. The vegetation includes riparian species along the rivers and desert shrubs and grasses throughout the rest of the unit. Elevations range from 3,150 to 4,894 feet.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 19,622 acres in a natural condition become a Wilderness Study Area.

Summary of Public Comments

A majority of the comments received supported the proposal. However, a number of comments in opposition were also submitted.

Those in favor of the proposal cited the natural quality of the unit, the lack of roads, the scenic qualities, and the numerous outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.



Those opposed to the proposal said that the unit had roads, a powerline, and numerous range improvements affecting it. Also cited were the outside sights and sounds from the Morenci copper mining operation. A number of general comments and comments on study phase criteria were also submitted.

#### BLM Decision

The powerline, most roads, and many of the range improvements are located in portions of the unit already proposed to be dropped. The remaining roads are short "cherry stems" or on the boundary, and do not seriously impact the unit. The remaining range improvements are substantially unnoticeable.

The most significant impact cited in the comments was that of the Morenci copper mine. It was determined that there was indeed a significant impact on that portion of the unit east of Eagle Creek. Visitors to this area will find little respite from the sights and sounds of the mine and tailings ponds. The overwhelming nature of these influences has caused us to drop 6,152 acres from the unit. The remaining 13,470 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-22/23/24(B)

Turtle Mountain

#### Description of the Unit

This unit is twenty miles northeast of Safford. The topography consists primarily of rugged mountains. The vegetation varies between desert shrubs and grasses in the lower elevations, and mountain shrubs and pinyon and juniper forest at higher elevations. Elevation ranges between 3,700 and 7,004 feet.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed this unit be established as a Wilderness Study Area since all 17,422 are in essentially natural condition.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments on this unit were evenly divided between supporters and opponents of the proposal.

Those who opposed the proposal mentioned the presence of roads and range improvements as affecting the naturalness of the unit. A number of comments addressed the effect of the Morenci copper mine. Other comments mentioned the state and private land within the unit. Several general comments and comments on study phase criteria were also submitted.

Those in favor of the proposal cited the lack of roads, natural condition, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation found in the unit.

## BLM Decision

The roads that were commented on are on the boundary, in "cherry stems," or outside the unit. The routes in Trujillo Canyon were determined to be ways and they do not impair the naturalness of that part of the unit. The range improvements do not significantly detract from the unit's naturalness. The state and private lands and the effects of wilderness designation upon them, will be addressed in the study phase.

The comments on the outside sights and sounds caused a careful reevaluation of the unit. It was determined that though some of the Morenci mining operation is visible, it is not of an overwhelming nature. The primary view is of overburden dumps. These reddish-brown dumps do not stand out as strongly as do tailings ponds. The distance of the dumps from the unit and its topography further lessens the effect of them.

All 17,422 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-30

Thumb Butte

### Description of the Unit

This unit is twenty miles east of Safford. The topography is varied and includes flat lowlands at 4,100 feet, rising to the northeast to 6,000 feet in somewhat mountainous terrain. The vegetation consists of desert shrubs and grasses.

## BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. The 10,075 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with the proposal to drop the unit.

## BLM Decision

Public comment did not question our proposal. Therefore, all 10,075 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.

Unit No. 4-48

Javelina Peak

### Description of the Unit

This unit is sixteen miles north of Bowie. The topography is highly varied and includes flatlands, a "badlands" formation, portions of the rugged



Whitlock Mountains, and an area of vegetated sand dunes. The vegetation is primarily desert shrubs and grasses. The unit slopes primarily to the south and west. Elevation ranges from about 3,240 feet to 5,592 feet.

#### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area of 17,870 acres while 337 acres were proposed to be dropped to exclude a powerline on the north-west side of the unit.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Most comments addressing the wilderness criteria disagreed with the proposal. However, most of these comments were not specific. A few mentioned roads and range improvements as affecting the unit.

#### BLM Decision

The roads and range improvements are outside the unit or are substantially unnoticeable. The unit is established as a 17,870-acre Wilderness Study Area, as proposed.

#### Unit No. 4-55

#### Little Franks

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 14 miles north of San Simon, in the Peloncillo Mountains. The terrain, varying between flatlands, foothills and low mountains, generally slopes to the south and west. The vegetation consists primarily of desert shrubs and grasses. The elevation ranges between 3,800 and 5,300 feet.

#### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. The unit's 7,535 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Comments received on this unit agreed the unit did not possess wilderness values.

#### BLM Decision

Since no comments questioned our proposal, all 7,535 acres are dropped from further wilderness review.

Description of the Unit

The unit is nine miles north of San Simon. It includes lowlands and foothills branching off the Peloncillo Mountains. The elevation changes from 5,250 feet at Orange Butte to 3,680 feet in the lowlands, sloping to the southwest. The vegetation consists of desert shrubs and grasses.

BLM Proposal

We proposed to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration because all 7,755 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments received concurred with our proposal to drop the unit. The comments addressed the unnaturalness of the area and lack of the outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Other general comments were received.

BLM Decision

Since no comments questioned our proposal, all 7,655 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

This unit is twelve miles northeast of San Simon. The unit consists of a very rugged portion of the Peloncillo Mountains cut by numerous canyons. The vegetation consists primarily of desert shrubs and grasses. The elevation ranges between 4,200 feet and 6,400 feet.

BLM Proposal

We proposed the unit to be a Wilderness Study Area because 13,032 acres were found to contain wilderness characteristics. Another 336 acres were dropped due to the impact of roads.

Summary of Public Comments

A few comments pointed out roads, range improvements, and external sights and sounds. Also received were a number of unspecific comments both supporting and opposing the proposal.



## BLM Decision

The comments caused us to reevaluate this unit. We found that the roads are outside the unit and do not significantly detract from the unit's naturalness. The outside sights and sounds are of a very minor nature. The range improvements were substantially unnoticeable. Therefore, all 13,032 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-65

Happy Camp Canyon

## Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Dos Cabezas Mountains, about eight miles south of Bowie. The unit consists primarily of mountainous terrain cut by many drainages and canyons. The vegetation is desert shrubs and grasses at lower elevations and mountain shrubs, oaks, and a pinyon and juniper forest in higher elevations.

## BLM Proposal

Most of this unit was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area since about 17,271 acres were found to contain wilderness characteristics. Another 3,056 acres with roads, old mines, and gravel pits, found to be unnatural, were proposed to be dropped.

## Summary of Public Comments

Most comments agreed with our proposal. In disagreement were several un-specific comments and a few pointing out roads, range improvements, and mines. A number of comments addressed unnatural features in parts of the unit proposed to be dropped. Most comments said the unit had outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, but a few said they were affected by outside sights and sounds.

## BLM Decision

The roads commented on are either on the unit boundary, short "cherry stems," or on private land. They do not significantly detract from the unit's naturalness. The range improvements and mining prospects are scattered throughout the unit and do not seriously affect it. A mine affects a small area in the southeastern arm of the unit. This mine and a road on private land leading to it are on the north side of this narrow arm. Combined with the boundary road on the south side of the arm, these impacts seriously impair the naturalness of this area. About 500 acres are therefore dropped from the unit. The outside sights and sounds are of a minor nature and do not significantly affect the unit. The remaining 16,771 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Description of the Unit

This unit is in the Gila Mountains, ten miles north of Safford. The unit is predominantly mountainous, rising to 6,200 feet from 4,300 feet. The vegetation includes mountain shrubs and pinyon juniper with desert shrubs at the base of the mountain slopes. Three ways and two short roads penetrate the unit.

BLM Proposal

We proposed to establish this 5,481-acre unit as a Wilderness Study Area. The terrain was judged to make the effects of the roads substantially unnoticeable.

Summary of Public Comment

A clear consensus opposed the proposal and judged the vehicle routes to render the unit unnatural. A comment said one of the "ways" is actually a road and has received recent maintenance and relatively regular use. Comments which supported the proposal were general in nature.

BLM Decision

The comments caused a reconsideration of our proposal. The "way" was determined to meet the definition of a road and bisects the unit into two parts both under 5,000 acres. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review.

Description of the Unit

This unit is twelve miles southeast of Clifton. It includes gently-rolling hills with numerous washes. The elevation varies from 5,040 feet to 4,720 feet. Slopes face north and northeast. The vegetation is predominantly desert shrubs.

BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration because the 160 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined types of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

All comments agreed with the proposal to drop the unit.



## BLM Decision

No comments questioned our proposal, therefore all 160 acres are dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 4-76'

Apache Box

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in New Mexico, seventeen miles north of Virden. It includes a very dramatic canyon and cliffs in Apache Box and also includes Apache Creek, a perennial stream. The elevation varies from 5,000 to 6,400 feet. The unit is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service "further planning" RARE II area. The vegetation is broadleaf riparian and mountain shrubs.

### BLM Proposal

This area was proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area because the 932 acres were found to contain wilderness characteristics.

### Summary of Public Comments

Comments addressed the unit's small size. One comment pointed out range improvements. Several general comments supported the proposal.

## BLM Decision

Public comment did not question our proposal. Even though the unit is less than 5,000 acres, it is contiguous to the Forest Service RARE II area. The minor range improvements are substantially unnoticeable. The unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 4-77

Hoverrocker

### Description of the Unit

This unit is fifteen miles southeast of Clifton. The terrain consists of low mountains and numerous canyons. The elevation ranges between about 4,400 feet and 5,228 feet. The unit slopes primarily to the southwest. The vegetation is primarily mountain shrub with some riparian species. This unit is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "further planning" unit.

### BLM Proposal

All 3,754 acres were found to contain wilderness characteristics and were proposed to be a Wilderness Study Area.

### Summary of Public Comments

A number of the comments supported the proposal. However, other comments pointed out the odd-shaped southern part of the unit lacked opportunities for solitude and recreation. Comments of a general nature were also received.

### BLM Decision

Public comments caused a careful reevaluation of the southern part of the unit. We found that opportunities for solitude and recreation would be difficult to find. Most of this area has steep talus slopes varying between one-quarter and three-quarters of a mile in width. Under the authority of "Organic Act Directive No. 78-61, Change 3," narrow fingers of roadless land extending outside the bulk of the unit may be excluded. About 985 acres are dropped under this authority. The remaining 2,769 acres are established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 4-78

### Ketchum

### Description of the Unit

This unit is just off State Route 78, ten miles east of Clifton. The unit is flat, with an elevation of 5,040 feet. The unit is contiguous to a U.S. Forest Service RARE II "further planning" area. The vegetation is predominantly desert shrub.

### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness review. The 22 acres lack opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments supported the proposal to drop this unit.

### BLM Decision

Public comment did not question our proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness review.

### Unit No. 4-82

### Holdout

### Description of the Unit

This unit is 15 miles of Bylas, in Santa Teresa Mountains. The unit slopes northeast from 4,750 feet down to a stream at 4,250 feet. The vegetation is primarily mountain shrub.



### BLM Proposal

The unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration because all 116 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments received concurred with the proposal to drop this unit. The comments addressed the unnaturalness of the area and lack of outstanding opportunity criteria. Other general comments were received.

### BLM Decision

The comments on this unit did not question our proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 4-83

### Steeple Rock

### Description of the Unit

This unit is in New Mexico approximately 10 miles northeast of Duncan. The terrain is mountainous, ranging to 6,166 feet at Mount Royal, and sloping generally southwest to gentle hills at 4,800 feet. The vegetation is mixed desert and mountain shrub.

### BLM Proposal

This unit was proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration since all 8,400 acres were found to lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

All comments received agreed the unit should not be considered further. Comments addressed the unnaturalness, existence of roads, and lack of outstanding criteria.

### BLM Decision

The comments on this unit did not question our proposal. The unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## YUMA DISTRICT

Note: Many public lands in the Yuma District are under "reclamation withdrawal." This means these lands have been previously closed to mineral entry, and for the purposes of flood control and water management, are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Water and Power Resources Service (formerly the Bureau of Reclamation). BLM administers other natural resources and uses, including wildlife habitat, recreation, and wilderness study.

Unit No. 5-1

Dead Mountains Northern Addition

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the eastern edge of the Dead Mountains, 15 miles northwest of Needles, California. It includes gently-rolling hills cut by a number of deep washes. The vegetation consists largely of a thin cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its western boundary. Elsewhere, the unit is bounded by a transmission line maintenance road and private lands.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 1,815 acres of the unit were proposed for study.

### Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Dead Mountains Northern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.



Description of the Unit

The unit is on the eastern edge of the Dead Mountains, about 10 miles northwest of Needles, California. It includes a small portion of an extensive bajada that slopes eastward from the range. The vegetation consists largely of a thin cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by maintained roads.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 630 acres of the unit were proposed for study.

Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Dead Mountains Southern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

Description of the Unit

The unit is at the northern end of the Chemehuevi Mountains, 10 miles southeast of Needles, California. Its terrain is rugged and comprised of a number of minor washes and intervening ridges. The vegetation consists of a sparse cover of creosote and bur-sage. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its southern and western boundaries. Elsewhere,

it is bounded by a gas pipeline maintenance road and the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 195 acres of the unit were proposed for wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Chemehuevi Mountains Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. Specific projects on these lands include a proposed quarry site.

#### Unit No. 5-4

#### Chemehuevi/Needles Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the eastern edge of the Chemehuevi Mountains, 15 miles south-east of Needles, California. It includes gently-rolling hills dissected by a number of easterly-flowing washes. The vegetation consist largely of a thin cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla; palo verde and ironwood grow in some of the washes. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its western and southern boundaries, and a unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern and northern boundaries.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for



solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 960 acres of the unit were proposed for study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Chemehuevi/Needles Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

#### Unit No. 5-5A

#### Needles Northern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 18 miles north of Lake Havasu City. It includes a portion of a minor bajada sloping northward from the Mohave Mountains. The vegetation consists largely of a sparse cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge on its western and southern boundaries. Elsewhere, it is bounded by a transmission line maintenance road and Interstate Highway 40.

A small portion of the unit was dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial wilderness inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remaining 5,590 acres in the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Even when considered with the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

## BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Needles Northern Addition is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 5-5B

### Needles Eastern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is 16 miles north of Lake Havasu City. It includes a small portion of the rugged Mohave Mountains. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. A few palo verde grow in the washes. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge on its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by private lands and a maintained road.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study as it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. All 465 acres of the unit were proposed for study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

One comment recommended that the general area of the Mohave Mountains be preserved as wilderness, as it offers "outstanding scenery, lots of 'elbow room' and an opportunity to get away from it all very close to Lake Havasu City."

#### BLM Decision

The comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation generally failed to consider the relationship between the unit and the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Since these comments did not question actual basis for the BLM proposal, the Needles Eastern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.



Description of the Unit

The unit is 15 miles north of Lake Havasu City. It includes steep-sided ridges and spires of a portion of the Mohave Mountains. The vegetation consists primarily of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge on a portion of its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded largely by maintained roads.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 6,850-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Even when considered with the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

One comment recommended that the general area of the Mohave Mountains be preserved as wilderness, as it offers "outstanding scenery, lots of 'elbow room' and an opportunity to get away from it all very close to Lake Havasu City."

BLM Decision

The unit embraces only a small portion of the Mohave Mountains, and appears to be physically separated from the remainder of the range by maintained roads and private lands. Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation within the unit itself are considered to be severely limited, owing largely to its small size and narrow, linear configuration.

Consequently, the Needles Southern Addition is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit covers the eastern half of the Buck Mountains, 20 miles northeast of Lake Havasu City. It includes an open, low-lying range of peaks and portions of an extensive bajada sloping to the north and east. The vegetative cover consists largely of creosote, brittlebush and cholla. Palo verde grows in the washes.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 9,020-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

## BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Buck Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 5-7C/5-48/2-52

Mohave Wash

## Description of the Unit

The unit covers an extensive area 15 miles southeast of Lake Havasu City. It includes most of the lower Mohave Wash drainage. The terrain varies considerably, from the volcanic tableland around Black Mountain and Mohave Springs Mesa to the rugged, low-lying Bill Williams Mountains, the isolated spires of the Castaneda Hills, and the open area of an extensive south-sloping bajada. In addition to the main wash, several major side washes also dissect the area. The vegetative cover consists largely of creosote, brittlebush, and ocotillo. Palo verde and smoketree grow in the washes.

The unit is bounded by maintained roads, state and private lands, and the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Two maintained roads penetrate its interior, one from the north and one from the east.

A portion of the unit, in the vicinity of Lake Havasu and the Bill Williams River, is under reclamation withdrawal.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study as it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. All 104,605 acres of the unit were proposed for wilderness study.

## Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for the unit.



Many specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from past mining and military activities on the area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to a lack of substantial topographic and vegetative screening over much of its area, along with the presence of sights and sounds from outside sources such as Arizona State Highway 95.

Two comments proposed boundary changes to eliminate portions of the unit believed not to have outstanding opportunities for solitude. One comment stated that an extensive area between the Bill Williams Mountains and the Castaneda Hills should be eliminated from the wilderness study area proposal, as it lacks substantial topographic and vegetative screening. A second comment proposed a corridor along State Highway 95 to eliminate an area heavily affected by sights and sounds from the highway.

Other specific comments received for the unit agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal. A few general comments agreed with the proposal as well.

#### BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal.

The unit is considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the past occurrence of mining and military activities on portions of its area. Imprints from past mining activities appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect on the unit's naturalness. No evidence of substantial imprints on the unit's naturalness from past military activities has been found.

The unit is considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation largely by virtue of its immense size and diverse terrain. The absence of topographic and vegetative screening over portions of its area does not, in itself, limit the unit's ability to offer such opportunities. Likewise, the mere presence of sights and sounds from outside sources does not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The unit as a whole is judged to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Elimination of portions of the unit that do not have these opportunities is not an appropriate wilderness inventory consideration, but will be addressed in the study phase.

Consequently, the 104,605-acre Mohave Wash unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

Unit No. 5-7D

(No Name)

Description of the Unit

The unit is 10 miles east of Lake Havasu City. It includes a small portion of an extensive bajada sloping southwest from the Mohave Mountains to the Colorado River. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, brittlebush and ocotillo. Palo verde and ironwood grow in the washes. The unit is bounded by state lands, a transmission line right-of-way, and maintained roads.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 5,945-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, unit 5-7D is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 5-7F

West Buck Mountains

Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Buck Mountains, 20 miles northeast of Lake Havasu City. It includes an open, low-lying range of peaks and portions of an extensive bajada sloping to the north and northwest. The vegetative cover consists largely of creosote, brittlebush and cholla. Palo verde grows in the washes. The unit is separated from unit 5-7A by a maintained road. Elsewhere, it is also bounded largely by maintained roads.



### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 10,655-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it is not natural and lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, West Buck Mountains is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 5-9

### East Whipple Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is at the eastern end of the Whipple Mountains, 7 miles northwest of Parker Dam in San Bernardino County, California. Its terrain is extremely rugged, and comprised largely of a massive east-facing fault-block with cliffs up to 500 feet high. The vegetation consists of a sparse cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, and Lake Havasu.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 5,235-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, East Whipple Mountain is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is at the eastern end of the Whipple Mountains, five miles northwest of Parker Dam in San Bernardino County, California. Its terrain is somewhat rugged, and dissected by several major washes. The vegetation consists largely of a sparse cover of creosote, bur-sage and cholla. Palo verde grows in the washes. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert on its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by maintained roads and private lands.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 1,380 acres of the unit were proposed for wilderness study.

Summary of Public Comments

One comment indicated in detail the presence of inactive mines on portions of the unit. In addition, a few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

BLM Decision

Some of the mining activities indicated in the public comments were not considered in the intensive wilderness inventory proposal for the unit. However, it is not believed that these imprints have a substantial overall effect on the natural condition of the unit and the contiguous wilderness study area. Consequently, the Whipple Mountains Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the unit. Specific projects on these lands may include powerlines or other appurtenant structures for a proposed pump storage project in the Whipple Mountains.

Description of the Unit

The unit is near the western end of the Buckskin Mountains, 15 miles northeast of Parker. It includes a broad, flat volcanic mesa that rises abruptly



on its northern and eastern edges. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, staghorn cholla, barrel cactus and palo verde. The unit is bounded largely by maintained roads. The route of the Central Arizona Project's Buckskin Mountain Tunnel forms an indefinite western boundary.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 14,185-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration because it lacks naturalness.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

One comment recommended that the unit be "retained," even though it lacks naturalness, to protect the southern edge of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and the Bill Williams River.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Mesa is dropped from further wilderness consideration. Retention of the area to prevent encroachment on adjacent areas is not a wilderness inventory consideration.

#### Unit No. 5-12

#### Gibraltar Mountain

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is at the extreme western end of the Buckskin Mountains, 10 miles northeast of Parker. It includes a rugged mass of volcanic rock dissected by a complex system of deep, sandy washes. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, staghorn cholla, barrel cactus and palo verde. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, state and private lands, and areas under long-term recreation lease. Three maintained roads penetrate its interior from the west.

The northern half of the unit is presently under reclamation withdrawal.

The unit's western portion, heavily affected by vehicle tracks, mining operations and other surface disturbances, was dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remainder of the unit undergo wilderness study as it is natural and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive

and unconfined type of recreation. All 25,260 acres of the area were proposed for study.

### Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received for the unit.

Some specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from mining activities on the area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to the presence of sights and sounds from competitive off-road vehicle events held on adjacent lands, as well as from other outside sources.

One specific comment received for the unit agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal. A few general comments agreed with the proposal as well.

### BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal.

The unit is considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the occurrence of mining activities on portions of its area. Most of the imprints from mining activities have been included in those portions of the unit dropped from further wilderness consideration in the initial inventory. The remaining imprints appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect on the unit's naturalness.

Sights and sounds from outside sources, although present, do not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Consequently, the Gibraltar Mountain unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the unit. Specific projects on these lands may include powerlines or other appurtenant structures for a proposed pump storage project in the Whipple Mountains.



Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Buckskin Mountains, 20 miles east of Parker. It includes a compact mass of peaks and ridges, dominated by Planet Peak (elevation 3,141 feet). The vegetation consists largely of a sparse cover of creosote, staghorn cholla, barrel cactus and palo verde. The unit is bounded by maintained roads and the route of the Central Arizona Project canal.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A total of 17,645 acres were proposed for study, while the remaining 50 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from mining activities on the area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to the presence of sights and sounds from competitive off-road vehicle events held on adjacent lands, as well as from other outside sources.

One specific comment received for the unit agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal. A few general comments agreed with the proposal as well.

BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal.

The unit is generally considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the occurrence of mining activities on portions of its area. Most of the imprints from mining activities are included in those portions of the unit proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. The remaining imprints appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect of the unit's naturalness.

Sights and sounds from outside sources, although present, do not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Consequently, the Planet Peak unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 5-14A/B

Cactus Plain

Description of the Unit

This unit combines intensive inventory units 5-14A and 5-14B. It is 15 miles southwest of Parker.

The unit covers the western half of the Cactus Plain, an immense, open area of stabilized and partially-stabilized sand dunes. The vegetation consists of galleta grass, creosote, saguaro, ocotillo, bur-sage and small cacti. The unit is bounded largely by maintained roads, the route of the Central Arizona Project canal, and a railroad.

A small area along the southwestern edge of the unit that included several active mining operations was dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial inventory.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of unit 5-14A in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. A total of 65,325 acres were proposed for study, while another 2,125 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

We proposed that unit 5-14B be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for both units.

Some specific comments disagreed with the basis for the BLM proposal for unit 5-14A, questioning both its naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the presence of vehicle routes on portions of its area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the presence of sights and sounds from outside sources that include transmission lines, Arizona State Highway 72, a railroad, and the town of Bouse. A few general comments also disagreed with the BLM proposal.

Several specific comments proposed boundary changes to eliminate portions of unit 5-14A believed not to have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The comments stated that the southern and southwestern portions of the unit should be eliminated from the wilderness study



area proposal, as they lack topographic and vegetative screening and are open to the sights and sounds from the adjacent state highway, railroad, and other sources.

A large number of comments, both general and specific, agreed with the basis for the BLM proposal for unit 5-14A. Many of the comments also indicated that the unit has outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, as the dune areas that characterize much of the unit provide excellent opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and sightseeing.

Finally, a large number of the comments disagreed with the basis for the BLM proposal for unit 5-14B, indicating that the unit is capable of offering outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Many of the comments supporting the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, referred to the remoteness of the unit and its surrounding areas, and the intricate topographic and vegetative screening provided by the dunes. Those comments supporting the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation referred to excellent opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and sightseeing afforded by the dunes.

#### BLM Decision

Following a review of the comments and a subsequent field check, we eliminated the boundary between units 5-14A and 5-14B. No evidence could be found to indicate that the vehicle route that had formed the boundary between the two units was maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use.

Unit 5-14A/B is generally considered to be in an essentially natural condition despite the occasional presence of vehicle routes. The routes appear to be far too scattered to have a noticeable overall effect on the unit's naturalness.

The unit is also considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The topographic and vegetative screening afforded by the dune system, when spread over the unit's immense area, is more than adequate to ensure outstanding opportunities for solitude. In addition, the intricate terrain and vegetative patterns of the dunes appear to ensure outstanding opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, nature study, photography, sightseeing and other primitive recreation activities.

The presence of sights and sounds from outside sources does not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The unit as a whole is judged to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Elimination of portions of the unit that may not offer these opportunities is not an appropriate wilderness inventory consideration, but will be addressed in the study phase.



Consequently, the 70,360-acre Cactus Plain unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 5-15A

Swansea

Description of the Unit

The unit is 25 miles northeast of Parker. It includes a short segment of the Bill Williams River and adjacent portions of the Buckskin Mountains and the Rawhide Mountains. The terrain is highly varied, consisting of a river canyon flanked by rugged, complex mountain masses and open areas of volcanic tableland. The vegetation consists of a dense cover of creosote, jumping cholla, beavertail cactus, brittlebush and ocotillo. The unit is bounded by maintained roads and private lands.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A total of 41,690 acres were proposed for wilderness study, while the remaining 3,095 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few public comments were received for the unit.

Some specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from mining activities on the area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to the presence of sights and sounds from competitive off-road vehicle events held on adjacent lands, as well as from other outside sights and sounds.

A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

BLM Decision

A few of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal.

The unit is generally considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the occurrence of mining activities on portions of its area. Most of the imprints from mining activities are included in those portions of the unit proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. The remaining imprints appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect on the unit's naturalness.



Sights and sounds from outside sources, although present, do not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

The old Planet Ranch Road, a vehicle route which had cut across the western end of the Swansea unit, has been recognized as a maintained road. The route now forms a portion of the unit's western boundary. It separates an area of 2,935 acres from the unit, which are dropped from further wilderness consideration. This parcel had been proposed to be dropped because it is not natural.

Consequently, the Swansea unit is established as a 41,850-acre Wilderness Study Area.

Unit No. 5-15B

Clara Peak

Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Buckskin Mountains, 30 miles east of Parker. With the exception of Clara Peak, a rugged sandstone monolith, the unit consists of a narrow range of low, gently-rolling hills. The vegetation is largely a thin cover of creosote. The unit is bounded by maintained roads and state lands.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 9,695-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, Clara Peak is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 5-17

East Cactus Plain

Description of the Unit

The unit covers a sizeable portion of the eastern end of the Cactus Plain, about 20 miles southeast of Parker. It is characterized by a large area of stabilized and partially-stabilized sand dunes. The vegetation consists of a dense cover of galleta grass, creosote, saguaro, ocotillo, bur-sage and

small cacti. The unit is bounded by maintained roads and the route of the Central Arizona Project canal.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. A total of 13,735 acres were proposed for study, while the remaining 285 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for the unit.

Some specific comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. These comments mostly referred to a general lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the presence of sights and sounds from mining exploration activities, competitive off-road vehicle events, and other occasional outside sources.

Most of the remaining comments, both general and specific, agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal.

### BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal.

The topographic and vegetative screening afforded by the dune system is considered adequate to ensure outstanding opportunities for solitude over a large portion of the unit. The intricate terrain and vegetative patterns of the dunes may also ensure outstanding opportunities for a number of primitive recreation activities.

The presence of sights and sounds from occasional outside sources does not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Consequently, East Cactus Plain is established as a 13,735-acre Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 5-18

### Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition

### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the southeastern edge of the Riverside Mountains, 30 miles north of Blythe, California. It includes a small portion of an extensive bajada that slopes eastward from the range. The vegetation consists largely



of a thin cover of creosote and bur-sage. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its northern and western boundaries. Elsewhere, the unit is bounded by transmission line maintenance roads and private lands.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study because it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. All 415 acres of the unit were proposed for wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments addressing the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

#### Unit No. 5-19

#### Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is at the extreme southeastern end of the Big Maria Mountains, about 12 miles northeast of Blythe, California. Its terrain is rugged, and dissected by several deep washes. The vegetation consists largely of a thin cover of creosote and bur-sage. Palo verde and ironwood grow in the washes. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by maintained roads, private lands and the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

The northern end of the unit was dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial wilderness inventory.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. A total of 1,420 acres were proposed for wilderness study, while another 100 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Summary of Public Comments

No specific comments questioning the unit's wilderness characteristics were received. A few general comments agreed with the proposal for wilderness study.

## BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

## Unit No. 5-20A

## La Posa Plain

## Description of the Unit

The unit covers a sizeable portion of the lower La Posa Plain, 10 miles southeast of Parker. It is characterized by generally flat and open areas of stabilized sands dunes. The vegetation is largely confined to wash areas. The unit is separated from unit 5-20B by a maintained road. Elsewhere, it is bounded by the Colorado River Indian Reservation and maintained roads.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 24,960-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.



### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the La Posa Plain unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 5-20B

South La Posa Plain

### Description of the Unit

This unit covers a sizeable portion of the lower La Posa Plain, 4 miles northwest of Quartsite. It is characterized by generally flat and open areas of stabilized sand dunes. The vegetation is largely confined to wash areas. The unit is separated from unit 5-20A by a maintained road. Elsewhere, it is bounded by the Colorado River Indian Reservation and maintained roads.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 29,270-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive, unconfined type of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, South La Posa Plain is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Unit No. 5-21

(No Name)

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Colorado River Valley, 35 miles northeast of Yuma. It includes an extensive area of desert pavement dissected by numerous washes. The vegetation is largely confined to the wash areas. The unit is bounded by the Yuma Proving Ground and maintained roads.

The western edge of the unit, adjacent to the Colorado River, is under reclamation withdrawal.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 16,510-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it is not natural and lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

One general comment was received for the unit. It agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

## BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, unit 5-21 is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 5-23A

## South Trigo Mountains

## Description of the Unit

This unit includes the southern end of unit 5-23A/B.

The unit is in the Trigo Mountains, 20 miles north of Yuma. It is characterized by sawtooth ridges and steep-sided canyons. The vegetation consists largely of saguaro, ocotillo, beavertail and barrel cactus, palo verde and ironwood. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, on portions of its southern boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by portions of the wildlife refuge not under wilderness proposal, the Yuma Proving Ground, and maintained roads.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portions of unit 5-23A/B in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Of the 5,890 acres now included in unit 5-23A, a total of 4,500 acres were proposed for study; the remaining 1,390 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for unit 5-23A/B.

Several comments indicated the presence of roads within the unit. Some of these comments agreed that a vehicle route down Red Cloud Wash should be considered a road, as there is evidence to indicate that the route is maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use. Other comments generally referred to the existence of roads on portions of the unit.



A number of specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the widespread presence of mining activities, particularly in the southern portion of the unit. Comments questioninig the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation referred largely to the presence of sights and sounds from nearby mining operations and other outside sources.

Other specific comments received for the unit agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal. A few general comments agreed with the proposal as well.

### BLM Decision

As a result of public comments received, we made a field check and verified the vehicle route down Red Cloud Wash to be a road. This route now forms the northwestern boundary of unit 5-23A, separating it from the remainder of unit 5-23A/B.

Unit 5-23A is generally considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the occurrence of mining activities in portions of it. Most of the imprints from mining activities are included in those portions of the unit that have already been proposed to drop from further wilderness consideration. The remaining imprints appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect on the unit's naturalness.

The unit also appears capable of offering outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge. Sights and sounds from outside sources do not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Consequently, the South Trigo Mountains unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 5-23B

### Trigo Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit includes most of unit 5-23A/B. It is 30 miles north of Yuma.

The unit includes a sizeable portion of the Trigo Mountains, as well as a portion of the large bajada that slopes westward from the range. The mountain area is characterized by sawtooth ridges and steep-sided canyons. Vegetation consists largely of saguaro, ocotillo, beavertail, and barrel cactus, palo verde, and ironwood. The unit is contiguous with two units of proposed wilderness in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge on portions of its western boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by portions of the Imperial

National Wildlife Refuge not under wilderness proposal, the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, the Yuma Proving Ground and maintained roads.

Portions of the unit are under reclamation withdrawal. They include all lands within the unit in the east half of T. 2 S, R. 23 W, as well as a few small areas along its western edge.

The unit's northern end, greatly affected by vehicle routes, gravel pits, and mining operations, was dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial wilderness inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of unit 5-23A/B in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Of the 46,850 acres now included in unit 5-23B, a total of 36,870 acres were proposed for study, while another 9,980 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for unit 5-23A/B.

Several comments indicated the presence of roads within the unit. Some of these comments agreed that a vehicle route down Red Cloud Wash should be considered a road, as there is evidence to indicate that the route is maintained to insure relatively regular and continuous use. One comment also agreed that a vehicle route down Clip Wash should be considered a road, as "it is travelled on a regular basis and has been since prior to 1900." Other comments generally referred to the existence of roads on portions of the unit.

A number of specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the widespread presence of mining activities, particularly in the southern portion of the unit. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation referred largely to the presence of sights and sounds from nearby mining operations and other outside sources.

Other specific comments received for the unit agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal. A few general comments agreed with the proposal as well.

#### BLM Decision

As a result of public comments received, we made a field check and verified the vehicle route down Red Cloud Wash to be a road. The route now forms a portion of the southern boundary of unit 5-23B, separating it from the



remainder of unit 5-23A/B. No other evidence of maintained roads has been found in the unit.

Unit 5-23B is generally considered to be in essentially natural condition despite the occurrence of mining activities on portions of its area. Most of the imprints from mining activities are included in those portions of the unit that have already been proposed to drop from further wilderness consideration. The remaining imprints appear to be far too dispersed to have a noticeable effect on the unit's naturalness.

By virtue of its large area and exceptionally rugged terrain, the unit is also considered capable of offering outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Sights and sounds from outside sources do not appear to have an overbearing effect on the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Consequently, the Trigo Mountains unit is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management Policy considerations on the reclamation withdrawn lands in the unit. Specific projects on these lands may include powerlines or other appurtenant structures for a proposed pump storage project in the Whipple Mountains.

#### Unit No. 5-28

#### Kofa Unit 2 Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the La Posa Plain, 12 miles southeast of Quartzsite. It includes a portion of an extensive bajada sloping westward from the Livingston Hills. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, bur-sage, and galleta grass, with palo verde and ironwood in the washes. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 3,085-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Even when considered with the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for this unit. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some general comments agreed with the basis for the BLM proposal as well.

A few general comments indicated tha the unit should be proposed for wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness.

#### BLM Decision

The unit, which covers a narrow portion of a west-sloping bajada, does not physically appear to be an integral part of the predominantly mountainous area in the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. As such, it is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

In the absence of any specific comments questioning this basis for the BLM proposal, the Kofa Unit 2 Addition is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Unit No. 5-30

#### Kofa Unit 3 Northern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the La Posa Plain, 13 miles southeast of Quartzsite. It includes a portion of an extensive bajada sloping westward from the Kofa Mountains. The vegetation consists largely of saguaro and mixed-desert shrub, with ironwood, palo verde, and smoketree in the washes. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 9,240-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Even when considered with the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness, it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for this unit. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Some general comments agreed with the basis for the BLM proposal as well.

A few general comments indicated that the unit should be proposed for wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered as an integral part of the unit of proposed wilderness.



## BLM Decision

The unit appears to represent only a marginal addition to the extensive bajada in the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. As such, it is not considered to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

In the absence of any specific comments questioning this basis for the BLM proposal, the Kofa Unit 3 Northern Addition is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 5-31

### Kofa Unit 3 Southern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the La Posa Plain, 13 miles southeast of Quartzsite. It includes the extreme northern end of the Castle Dome Mountains and portions of extensive bajadas sloping westward from the Kofa and Castle Dome ranges. Vegetation is generally confined to the washes, and consists mainly of ironwood and palo verde. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on portions of its eastern and southern boundaries. Elsewhere, it is bounded by portions of the wildlife refuge not under wilderness proposal, and maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. A total of 3,400 acres were proposed for study, while the remaining 7,870 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for this unit.

Some comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the presence of mining activities within its boundaries. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the presence of sights and sounds from transmission lines, U.S. Highway 95, and other outside sources.

Many general comments agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal.

## BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal. No evidence of substantial imprints from mining activities has been found on that portion of the unit proposed for wilderness study. Moreover, the comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation generally failed to consider the unit in relation to its contiguous unit of proposed wilderness.

Consequently, the Kofa Unit 3 Southern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

### Unit No. 5-33

### Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is at the northwest end of the Castle Dome Mountains, 25 miles south of Quartzsite. It includes a small section of steep, rugged mountain range and an adjacent portion of the extensive bajada that slopes northwesterly from the range. The vegetation is largely confined to the washes, and consists of creosote, saguaro, ocotillo, palo verde, and ironwood. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern and southern boundaries. Elsewhere, it is bounded largely by maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the portion of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as it offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. A total of 1,900 acres were proposed for study, while the remaining 295 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for this unit.

Some comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the presence of mining activities within its boundaries. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the presence of sights and sounds from transmission lines, U.S. Highway 95, and other outside sources.



Many general comments agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal.

#### BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal. No evidence of substantial imprints from mining activities on the unit's naturalness has been found. Moreover, the comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation generally failed to consider the unit in relation to its contiguous unit of proposed wilderness.

Consequently, the Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 5-34

#### Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the Castle Dome Plain, 30 miles northeast of Yuma. It includes a portion of an extensive bajada sloping southwesterly from the Castle Dome Mountains. The vegetation consists largely of creosote, ocotillo, saguaro, and bur-sage. The unit is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on a portion of its eastern boundary. Elsewhere, it is bounded by portions of the wildlife refuge not under wilderness proposal, the Yuma Proving Ground, and maintained roads.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the unit undergo wilderness study as it is in essentially natural condition, and offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous unit of proposed wilderness. All 11,220 acres of the unit were proposed for wilderness study.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for this unit.

Some comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to the presence of mining activities within its boundaries. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to a lack of topographic and vegetative screening, and the presence of sights and sounds from transmission lines, U.S. Highway 95, and other outside sources.

Many general comments agreed with the basis for the wilderness study proposal.

#### BLM Decision

A review of those comments questioning the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, indicated no substantial basis for changing the BLM proposal. No evidence of substantial imprints from mining activities on the unit's naturalness has been found. Moreover, the comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation generally failed to consider the unit in relation to its contiguous unit of proposed wilderness.

Consequently, the Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area.

#### Unit No. 5-35

#### Little Picacho Peak Addition

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is on the southeastern edge of the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County, California. It includes a series of rugged peaks breaking east toward the Colorado River. The vegetation consists of a thin cover of creosote, mixed desert shrub, annual grasses and galleta grass. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the unit is contiguous with a wilderness study area in the California Desert Conservation Area on its western and southern boundaries. Elsewhere, it is bounded by a maintained road and the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge.

With the exception of Section 35, T. 13 S, R. 23 E, the entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that those portions of the unit in essentially natural condition undergo wilderness study, as they offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation when considered as an integral part of the contiguous wilderness study area. A total of 2,915 acres were proposed for wilderness study, while the remaining 35 acres were proposed to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

#### Summary of Public Comments

Two specific comments on the unit's wilderness characteristics agreed with proposal for wilderness study. A few general comments also agreed with the proposal.



One additional comment citing potential conflicts between wilderness designation for the unit and the Imperial County General Plan was also received.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Little Picacho Peak Addition is established as a Wilderness Study Area. Potential conflicts between wilderness designation for the unit and the Imperial County plan will be addressed in the study phase.

Water and Power Resources Service projects will have priority over wilderness Interim Management considerations on reclamation withdrawn lands in the area. No specific projects have been identified for these lands at present, however.

Unit No. 5-36

(No Name)

#### Description of the Unit

The unit is at the extreme southeastern end of the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County, California. It includes a series of rugged, low-lying hills adjacent to the Colorado River. Most vegetation is immediately along the river. The unit is bounded largely by a combination of maintained roads and the Colorado River.

With the exception of those portions of the unit in Sections 24 and 25, T. 14 S, R. 23 E, the entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 5,060-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

One comment questioning the unit's naturalness and ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation was received. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, unit 5-36 is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit lies along the Colorado River 20 miles northwest of Yuma. It includes a series of rugged, low-lying hills at the edge of an extensive bajada sloping westward from the Castle Dome Mountains. Most vegetation is immediately along the river. The unit is bounded by the Yuma Proving Ground, the Colorado River, maintained roads, and areas under long-term recreation lease.

The entire unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 6,740-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Several comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's naturalness and ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

A few comments recommended wilderness designation for the unit, primarily to protect riparian values along the Colorado River.

BLM Decision

In the absence of comments questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, unit 5-37 is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

The presence of riparian values is not, in itself, a valid basis for proposing a unit for wilderness study.

Description of the Unit

The unit is in the western half of the Laguna Mountains, a small desert range, 10 miles northeast of Yuma. The unit consists almost entirely of low, gently-rolling hills with a thin cover of annual grasses. It is bounded by the Yuma Proving Ground, private land, and maintained roads.

Portions of the unit are under reclamation withdrawal. They largely include lands immediately adjacent to the Gila Main Canal, along the unit's southern, western, and northern edges.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 9,265-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for this unit.

Some comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

Most of the remaining comments disagreed with the basis for the BLM proposal. These comments argued that the unit has adequate topographic complexity to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. They also felt that the unit's rolling terrain may well provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation activities such as hiking and sightseeing.

## BLM Decision

After a review of the comments, it is our judgment that there is no substantive reason for changing our proposal. The unit is still considered to lack the combination of size and topographic complexity necessary to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Consequently, the Laguna Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 5-39

## Northern Gila Mountains

### Description of the Unit

This unit is at the extreme northern end of the Gila Mountains, 15 miles east of Yuma. It includes a narrow, rugged range of mountains that rises over 1500 feet above surrounding areas. The vegetation consists of a thin cover of creosote, mixed desert shrub, annual grasses and galleta grass. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, a railroad, and state and private lands.

Portions of the unit are presently under reclamation withdrawal. They largely include lands near the Gila Main Canal, along the unit's eastern and northern edges.

A small area near the southern end of the unit, covered by a cluster of communications sites, and a small area at the northern end of the unit,

covered by active mining operations, were dropped from further wilderness consideration during the initial wilderness inventory.

### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remaining area of 13,165 acres in the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

### Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for this unit.

Several comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from mining activities on portions of the unit's area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation referred to the presence of sights and sounds from Interstate Highway 8, a railroad, communications sites, agricultural lands, and other outside sources.

One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

Many other comments, both general and specific, questioned the basis for the BLM proposal. These comments argued that the unit's rugged terrain is more than adequate in extent to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. They also felt that the mountains are outstanding for day hiking, desert sightseeing, and other primitive recreation activities.

### BLM Decision

After a review of the comments, it is our judgment that there is no substantive reason to change the BLM proposal. The interior area of this narrow, linear unit lacks the combination of size and topographic complexity necessary to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, and other primitive recreation activities also appear to be severely limited by the area's size and terrain.

Consequently, the Northern Gila Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

### Unit No. 5-40

### Gila Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is in the Gila Mountains, 20 miles southeast of Yuma. It includes a small section of the mountain range and an adjacent portion of the extensive bajada that slopes northeasterly from the range. Vegetation



consists largely of creosote and mixed-desert shrub. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, the Wellton Mohawk Canal, state and private lands, and the Luke-Williams Air Force Range.

Portions of the unit are under reclamation withdrawal. They largely include lands immediately adjacent to the Wellton-Mohawk Canal, along the unit's northeastern edge.

Much of the unit's lower bajada area was dropped from further wilderness consideration in the initial wilderness inventory.

#### BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remaining area of 8,765 acres in the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A considerable number of comments were received for this unit.

Some comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness mostly referred to imprints from mining activities on portions on the unit's area. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation mostly referred to the presence of sights and sounds from Interstate Highway 8 and other outside sources.

One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

Many other comments, both general and specific, questioned the basis for the BLM proposal. These comments argued that the topographic complexity of the unit's rugged mountain area is sufficient to ensure outstanding opportunities for solitude. They also felt that the mountain area offers outstanding opportunities for desert hiking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, and other primitive recreation activities.

#### BLM Decision

After a review of the comments, it is our judgment that there is no substantive reason to change the BLM proposal. The unit's mountainous area is still considered to lack the combination of size and topographic complexity necessary to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, and other primitive recreation activities also appear to be severely limited by the unit's size and terrain.

Consequently, the Gila Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is at the extreme northern end of the Mohawk Mountains, 50 miles east of Yuma. It includes a narrow, rugged mountain ridge that rises over 1,500 feet above surrounding areas. The vegetation consists largely of a thin cover of creosote and mixed desert shrub. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, and state and private lands.

The northern end of the unit is under reclamation withdrawal.

A small portion of the unit was eliminated from further wilderness consideration during the initial wilderness inventory.

BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remaining area of 4,735-acre in the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Summary of Public Comments

Only a few comments were received. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Northern Mohawk Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Description of the Unit

The unit is 25 miles southeast of Parker. It includes a low divide extending south from the Buckskin Mountains to the Bouse Hills, as well as portions of the eastern edge of the Cactus Plain and the northwestern end of Butler Valley. The terrain varies considerably, and includes low rolling hills, extensive gently-sloping bajadas, and an area of stabilized sand dunes. The vegetation consists primarily of creosote, with galleta grass, brittlebush, and ocotillo also present. The unit is bounded by maintained roads, state lands, and the route of the Central Arizona Project canal.



## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the 27,340-acre unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as it lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

## Summary of Public Comments

Very few comments were received for the unit. Most of the comments questioned the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

One comment indicated that the unit may have outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. It argued that the dune system along the unit's western edge was capable of offering opportunities for solitude by virtue of its relative isolation and dense topographic screening. It also stated that the dune system afforded excellent opportunities for hiking, sightseeing, and nature study.

## BLM Decision

The dunes along the unit's western edge are considered far too limited in area to be able to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Consequently, Butler Pass is dropped from further wilderness consideration.

## Unit No. 5-49

## Plomosa Mountains

### Description of the Unit

The unit is 6 miles northeast of Quartzsite. Its extensive area includes the northern end of the Plomosa Mountains and a sizeable portion of the lower La Posa Plain. The mountains are basically a single-ridge formation encompassing the eastern one-third of the unit, while the remainder consists of an extensive west-sloping bajada and a flat, open area of stabilized sand dunes. The vegetation is largely confined to wash areas.

An area of mining activity on the eastern side of the Plomosa Mountains was eliminated from further wilderness consideration, in the initial wilderness inventory, as it was considered to be no longer in essentially natural condition. Two small areas along the unit's western edge were also eliminated from further wilderness consideration in the initial wilderness inventory.

## BLM Proposal

We proposed that the remaining area of 75,100 acres in the unit be dropped from further wilderness consideration, as the relatively small portion of

its area that is in essentially natural condition does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

#### Summary of Public Comments

A number of comments were received for the unit.

All of the specific comments questioned the unit's naturalness and its ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Comments questioning the unit's naturalness referred to the widespread presence of mining activities, vehicle routes, off-road vehicle tracks, and other surface disturbances. Comments questioning the unit's ability to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation referred to the lack of topographic and vegetative screening over a large portion of its area, along with the presence of sights and sounds from a nearby jet engine test facility and other outside sources.

One general comment agreed with the proposal to drop the unit from further wilderness consideration.

#### BLM Decision

In the absence of comments specifically questioning the basis for the BLM proposal, the Plomosa Mountains unit is dropped from further wilderness consideration.



Form 1279-3  
(June 1984)

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Wilderness review;  
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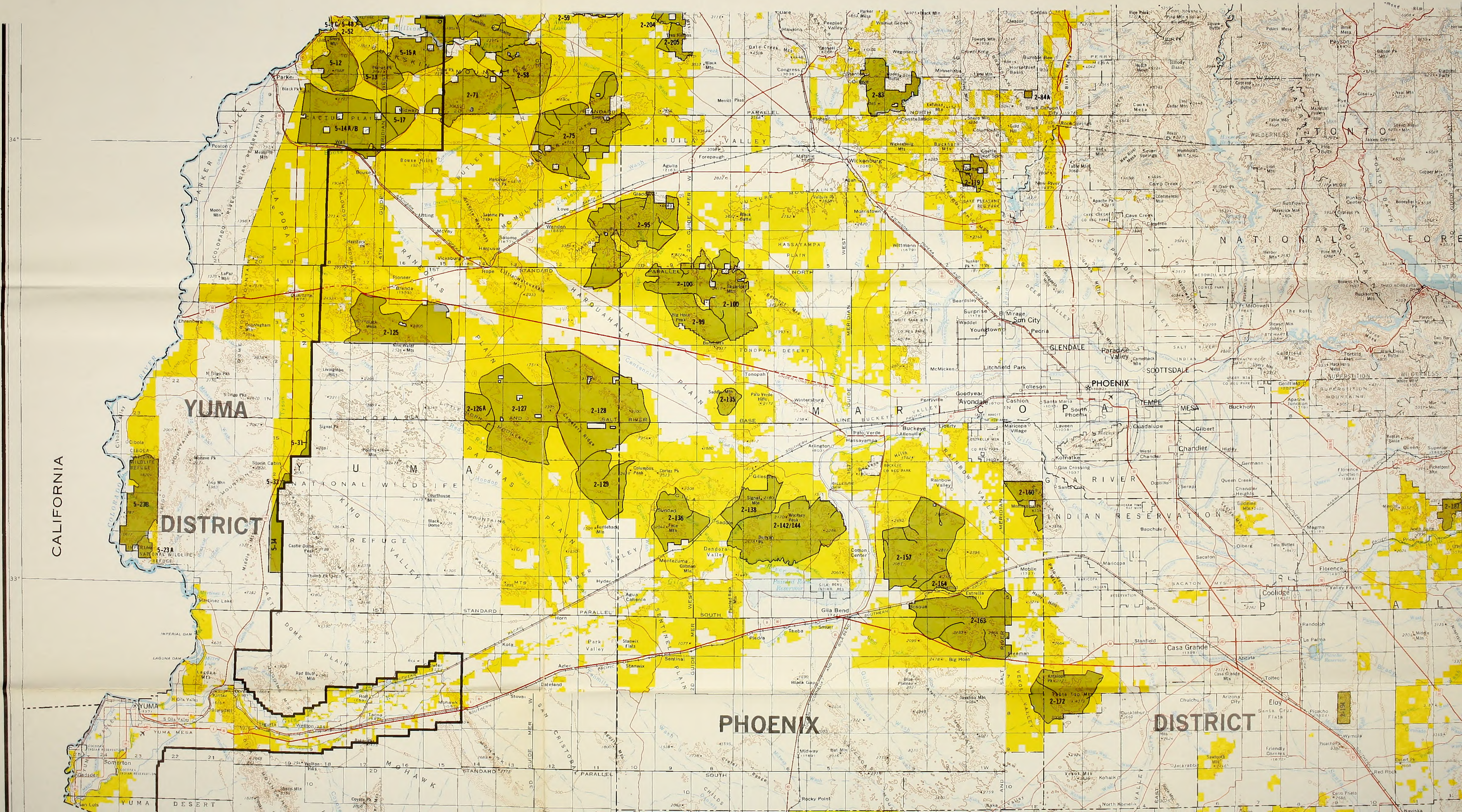
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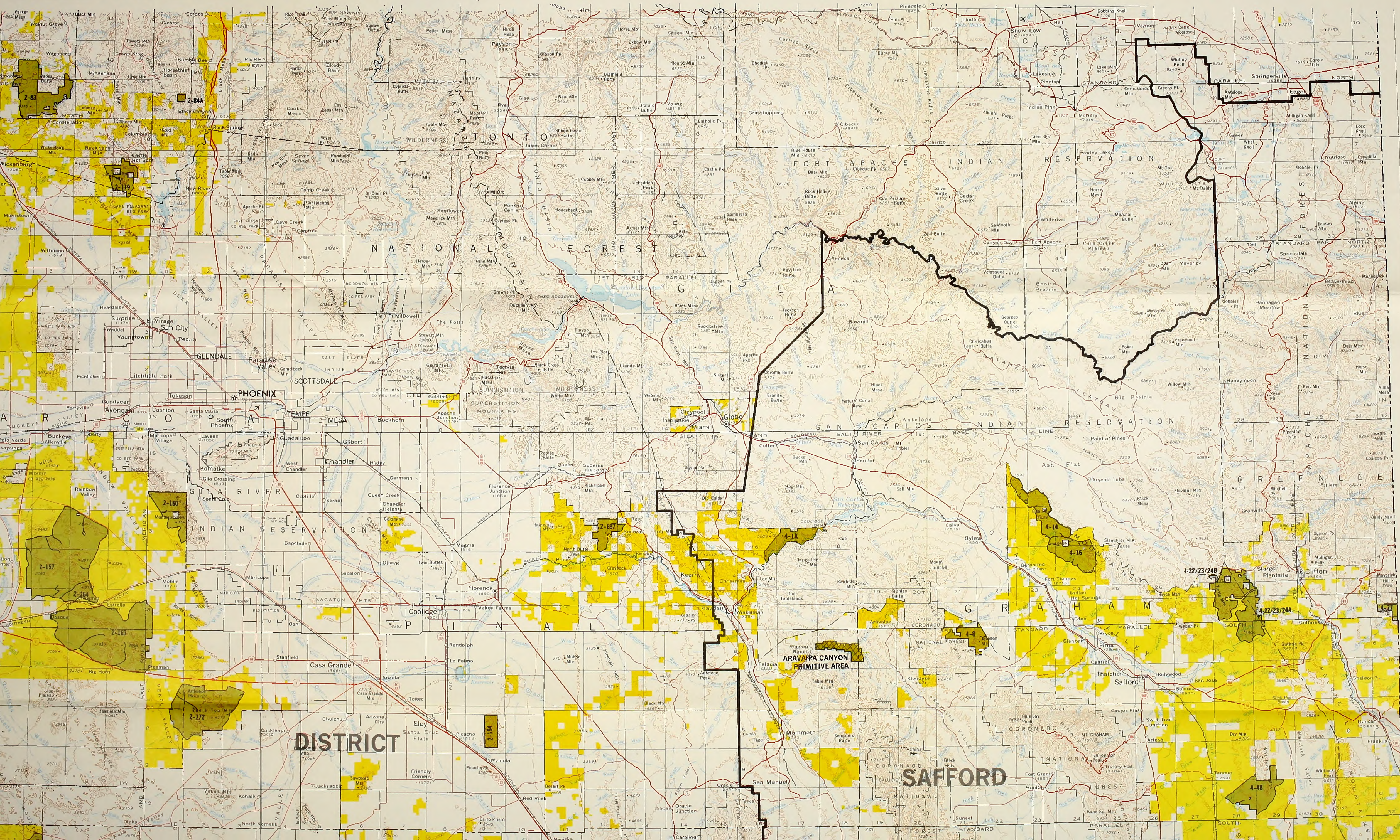


## WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)





# WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA'S)



NEW MEXICO



# **WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA's) ARIZONA BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW**



- LEGEND**
- PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTERED BY BLM
  - SHADED AREA WHICH CONTAINS WILDERNESS VALUES AND IDENTIFIED AS WSA, SUBJECT TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS.
  - INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION  
UNIT NUMBER  
BLM DISTRICT (1) ARIZONA STRIP  
(2) PHOENIX (4) SAFFORD (5) YUMA
  - DESIGNATED PRIMITIVE OR NATURAL AREA (INSTANT STUDY AREA). AREA SUBJECT TO INTERIM MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS.
  - State Capital
  - County seat
  - City, town, or village
  - Interstate highway
  - U. S. highway
  - State highway
  - Other principal roads

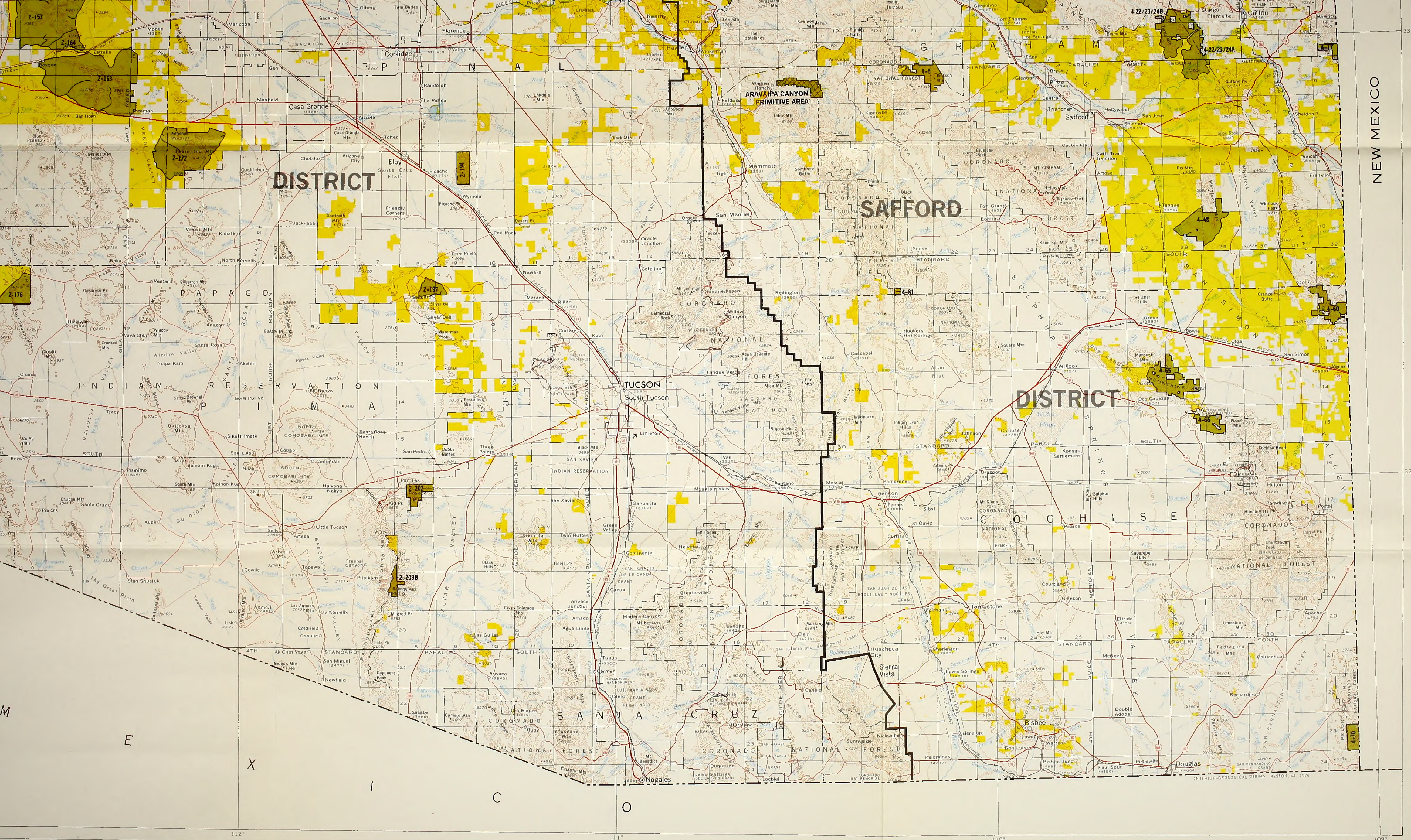
Scale 1:500,000  
1 inch equals approximately 8 miles  
0 10 20 Miles  
0 10 20 Kilometers



LAND OWNERSHIP AND BOUNDARY LINES AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP ARE INTENDED ONLY TO AID IN PUBLIC REVIEW. ACCURACY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
NOVEMBER 1980

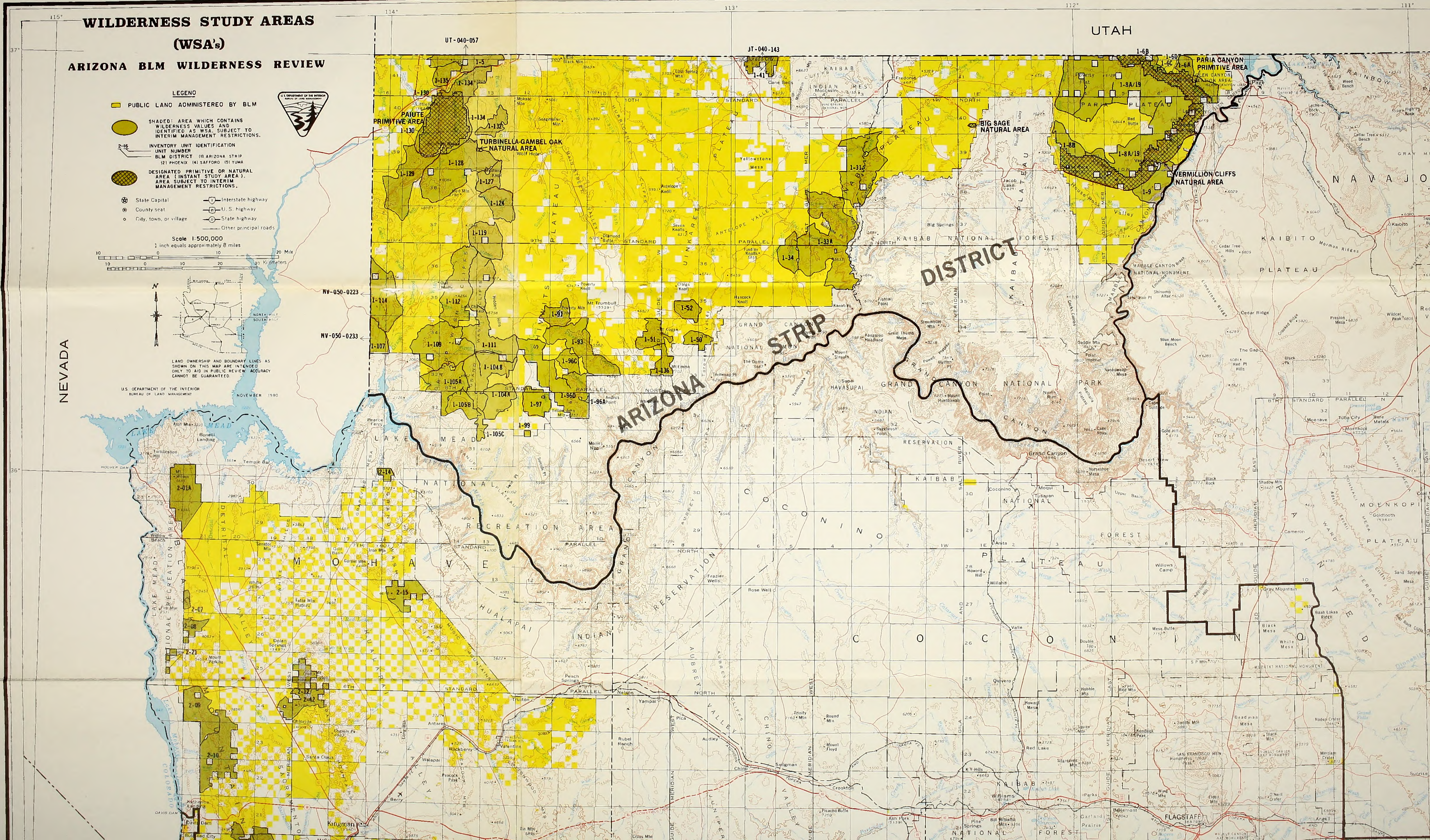




NEW MEXICO



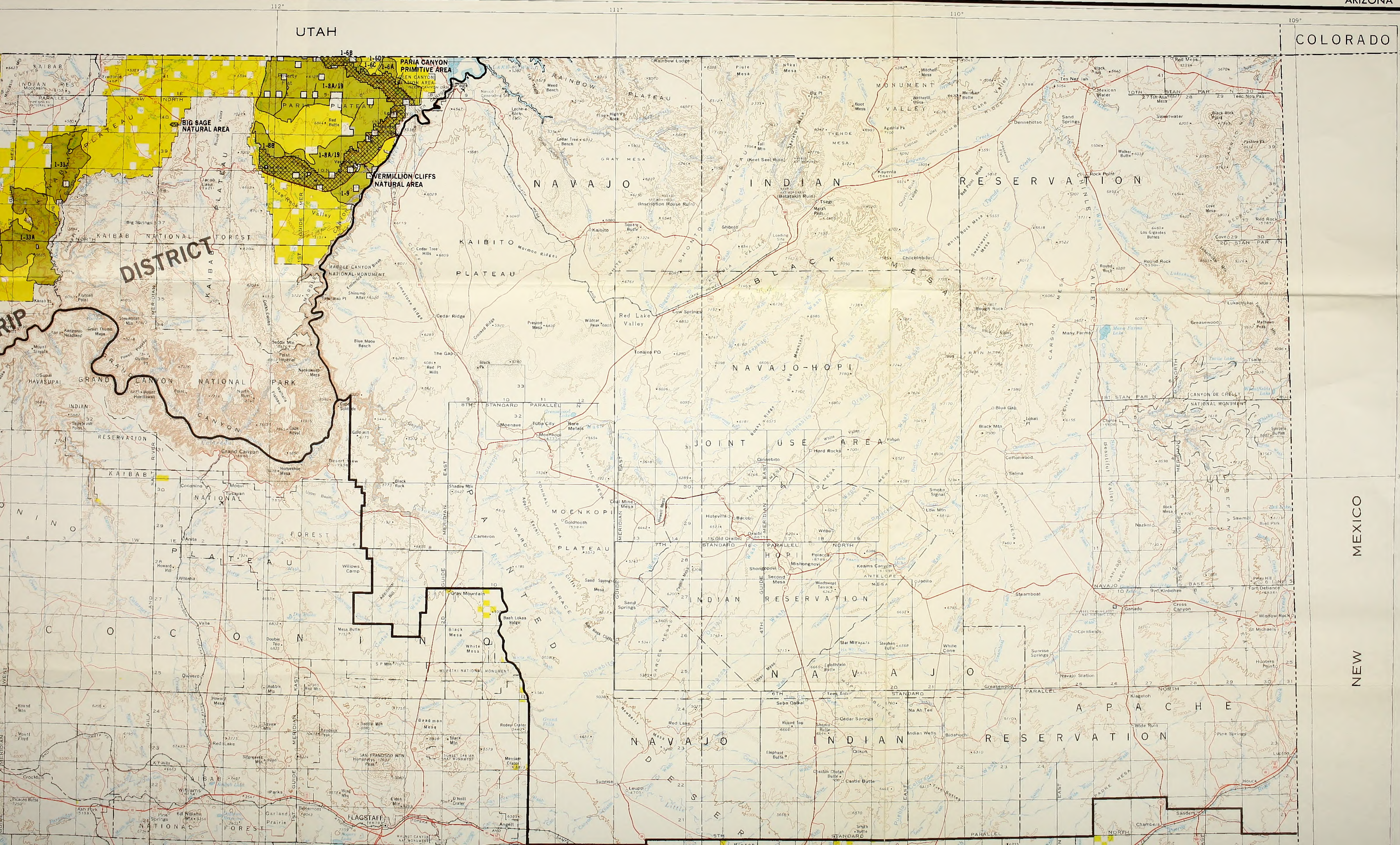
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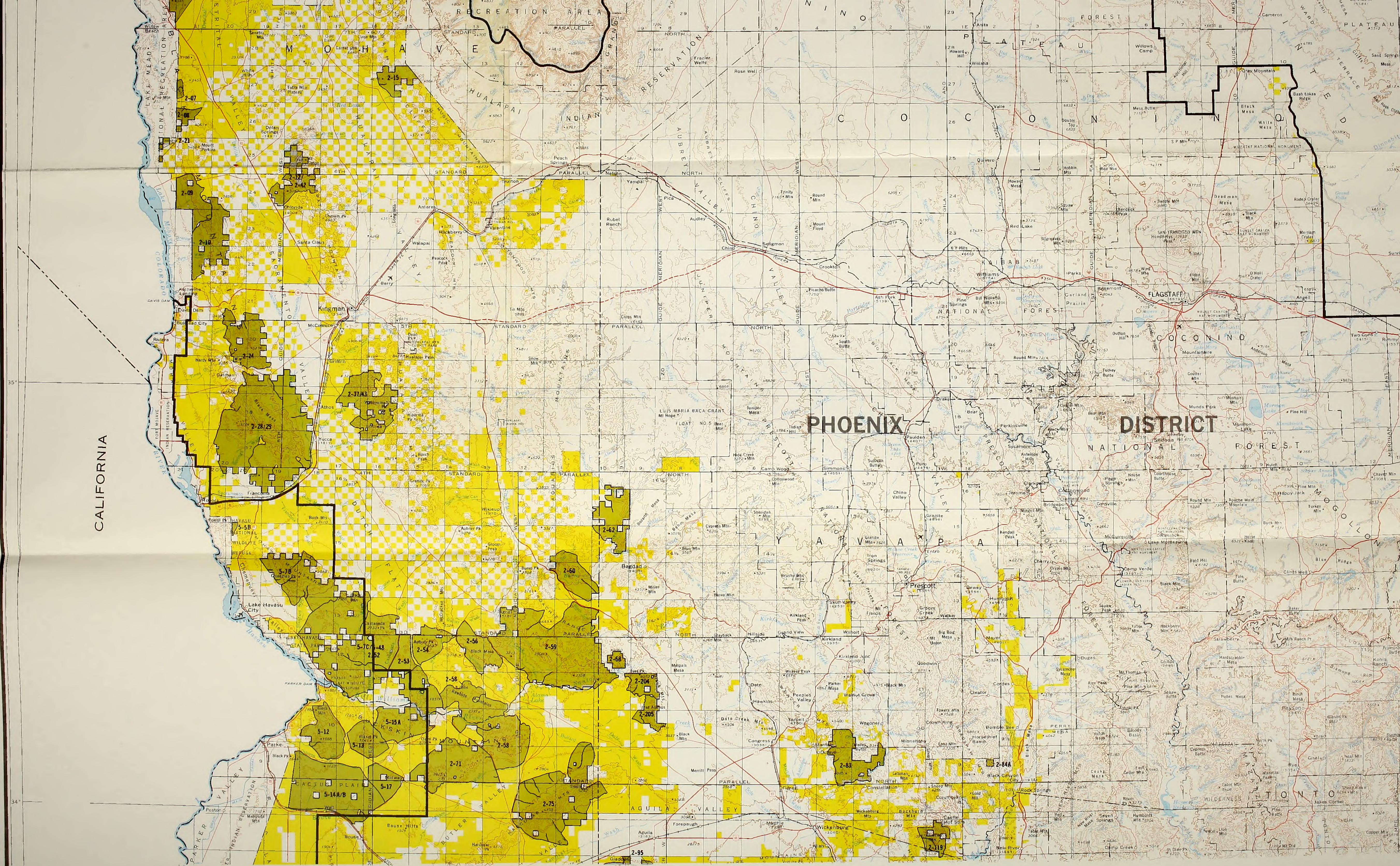


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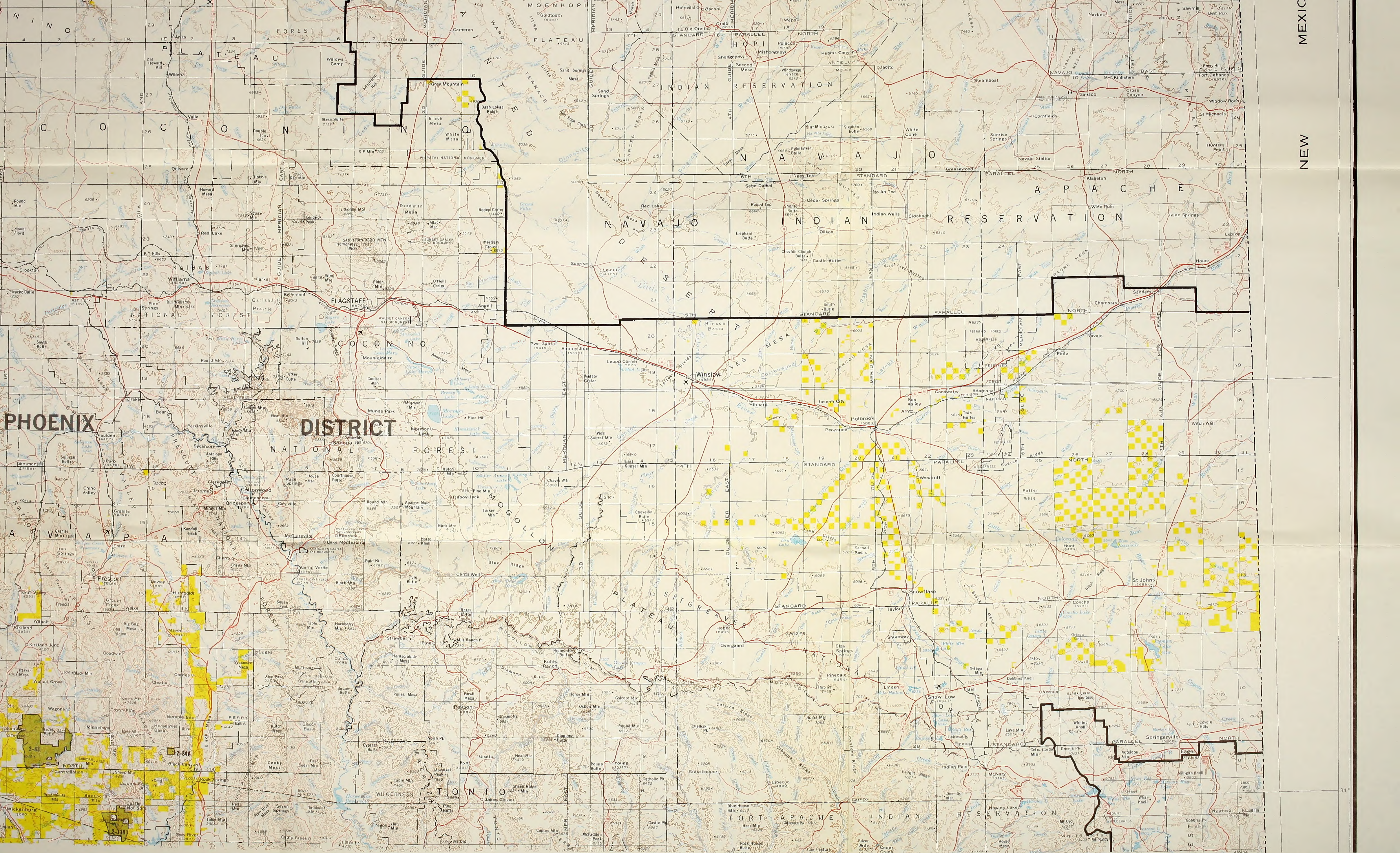
ARIZONA











MEXICO  
NEW

# PHOENIX DISTRICT



# NEVADA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NOVEMBER 1980

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